

THE TIMES

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MONDAY APRIL 21 1997

TODAY

10p

SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

13 PAGES OF SPORT

JAMES THE WORST?

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PAGE 27

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VOUCHER P 2

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10p

THIS WEEK IN

Science:
Mapping the human face

Melvin Bragg on the shock of the new
The Queen's Awards

TOMORROW

How to keep your brain healthy

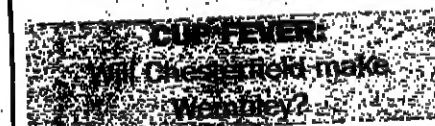


PLUS:
Terence McNally on his controversial new play about Maria Callas

WEDNESDAY

FASHION:

What's in this summer
Grace Bradberry on the belted coat



THURSDAY



FILMS
The Return of the Jedi

BOOKS
The legacy of John Wayne



CUP FEVER:
Manchester United's bid for European glory

ROCK AND POP

Caitlin Moran and David Sinclair on the latest releases

SATURDAY

Magazine
32 pages of House Style - the space-age homes for the millennium

PLUS: WEEKEND CAR 97
WEEKEND MONEY
TV RADIO GUIDE

Major 'would advise Blair on handling Europe'

By PETER RIDDELL

JOHN MAJOR has offered to give Tony Blair frank and private advice on how to handle negotiations in the European Union if Labour wins the general election. In an hour-long interview with *The Times* in Downing Street, Mr Major nonetheless says he is confident of winning the election. A relaxed and good-humoured

Prime Minister admitted he was "battered" by the opinion polls showing a big Labour lead which "bear no relationship to what I feel going round the country". He said he was "having fun" during the campaign.

Dismissing protests about the Conservative Party advertisement showing a small Mr Blair on the knee of a giant Chancellor Helmut Kohl, he says: "Politics

has become so pompous." He describes the "rough and tumble of politics" as part of its charm.

Mr Major discloses for the first time that Conservative MPs would probably be offered a free vote in opposition, as well as in government, on any decision to take Britain into a single currency. This move would please pro-European Tory MPs who would strongly resist any move to

Full interview, page 9

outright opposition from a new Eurosceptic leader of the party. It would also help a Labour government to construct a cross-party majority if it eventually decided to enter.

He says: "If Tony Blair were Prime Minister and he asked my

advice about how to handle European negotiations, he could have it in complete privacy and in complete frankness."

Mr Major reveals the extent of his disillusionment with the way the EU now works and with the behaviour of other European leaders and the Brussels Commission and says that they are pushing the national patience in more than one country to break-

ing point. He is "sick and tired" of the fact that whenever he tells the truth in Brussels, it is portrayed as "poor old Britain, isolated again, making a different Eurosceptic line". He adds: "There is nothing Eurosceptic about pointing out that this institution is creaking... it is pushing the national states too far and it will break up... if it carries on as it is going."

MIKE WILKINSON

Feuding ministers cloud Tory fightback

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Prime Minister's attempts to launch a fightback in the ten days before polling were undermined yesterday by a public clash between Cabinet ministers over Europe that fuelled speculation about a post-election leadership contest.

As John Major tried to turn the spotlight from Europe to education, Kenneth Clarke directly contradicted Michael Howard's claim that the Amsterdam summit in June could threaten Britain's future as a nation state. The Chancellor also suggested that far from being more sceptical than Labour and the Liberal Democrats, Tory policy on a single currency was "identical to both of the other parties".

The clash between Mr Clarke and Mr Howard prompted Gordon Brown to declare that the leadership battle was out in the open and Tony Blair to speak of the "civil war" raging in the Tory party. Paddy Ashdown said that ministers were fighting like ferrets in a sack.

Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, a former deputy party chairman who has been working closely with Mr Major, issued a sharp warning to those anticipating a leadership contest. "Their duty is quite simply to get behind the Prime Minister in the next two weeks and if they don't the party will remember very clearly," he told BBC News.

At the same time, John Redwood issued a loyalty statement after weekend newspapers suggested that his leadership cam-

paign was ready to roll. "I am only fighting one election - the general election," he said. "That is the election that matters and that is why I urge everyone to vote Conservative."

Mr Redwood, the beaten challenger in 1995, does, however, have several backers who would be ready for a swift leadership battle, and a Stop Redwood campaign is already emerging among supporters of several potential rivals, including Michael Portillo, Mr Howard and Mr Clarke.

Many senior MPs believe that Mr Major would want to go quickly if he were heavily defeated on May 1. But supporters of Cabinet contenders - who might also include Malcolm Rifkind, William Hague and Stephen Dorrell - intend to ask him to stay on as leader at least until July to give ministers time to organise their bids.

The leadership speculation intensified yesterday after Mr Howard told GMTV's *Sunday* programme: "The Amsterdam summit (is) so far-reaching that it would indeed put our survival as a nation state in question. That is the reality." But asked by the BBC's *On the Record* programme if he agreed, Mr Clarke said: "No. I don't think the

Continued on page 2, col 6
Election 97, pages 9-12
Peter Riddell, page 22
Letters, page 23



Old left, young left: Mick McGahey, former leader of the Scottish miners, embracing Rozanne Foyer, the Scottish TUC's youth spokeswoman, at the STUC's centenary congress in Glasgow yesterday. Page 12; leading article, page 23

Mild at first, then severe frost — for 10,000 years

THE long-term weather forecast for Britain is freezing, but global warming will give us at least a thousand years of Mediterranean weather first (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Two British climatologists who have examined the great cycles of variation caused by changes in the Earth's orbit believe that we

are only ten millennia or so away from a period of extreme cold, with a new Ice Age to follow.

Dr Clare Goodness and Dr Jean Palutikof of the University of East Anglia say that if global warming is discounted, today's temperate weather is likely to be succeeded in two thousand years or so by "boreal" conditions

similar to those of north Norway and Sweden.

That would persist for almost 20,000 years, before the country became as cold as southwest Alaska or north Russia. In about 50,000 years, things would get still worse, with 10,000 years of glacial conditions comparable to Greenland today. That might

make it impossible for big communities to survive in the North.

When global warming is considered, a different picture emerges. Mediterranean weather will set in for at least a thousand - and possibly 10,000 - years. But once all the fossil fuel in the Earth's crust has been burnt a major cause of global warming

will disappear. There will then be 25,000 years of temperate climate before the thermometer takes a dip. After another 25,000 years of a boreal climate, periglacial conditions will set in. *Climates of the British Isles*, Routledge (£65 and £19.99).

Leading article, page 23

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



TV & RADIO 50, 51
WEATHER 26
CROSSWORDS 26, 52
LETTERS 23

OBITUARIES 25
PETER RIDDELL 22
ARTS 20, 21
CHESS & BRIDGE 37

COURT AND SOCIAL 24
BUSINESS 46-50, 52
MIND AND MATTER 17
QUEEN'S AWARDS 42-45

TOM SHARPE

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PAN
384

Ulster loyalists plotted attack on civil servants

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

POLICE in Northern Ireland have uncovered detailed plans by loyalist terrorists to murder civil servants working at the Anglo-Irish Secretariat on the outskirts of Belfast. A major review of security has been introduced after the discovery that car movements by staff at the heavily fortified secretariat had been monitored.

More than 20 senior British and Irish civil servants formally liaise at the Maryfield secretariat, under the auspices of the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement. One source there said: "The information compiled by the loyalists has given us quite a shock."

Security had been relaxed following the loyalist ceasefire in October 1994. Irish civil servants will now be stopped from using the small Belfast City Airport, and will instead use RAF Aldergrove, 20 miles away, where they will be met by armed RUC guards. The

Maryfield source said: "The Irish civil servants have been using the special Short's terminal at the city airport. But there is a concern that having the Irish airforce jet with its insignia waiting near the Short's factory could cause difficulty because the workforce is predominantly Protestant."

An attack on the Maryfield secretariat, which is protected by barbed wire and 24-hour armed guards on the main road out of East Belfast, would mark a dramatic escalation of loyalist violence. The Ulster Defence Association has been blamed for a series of unclaimed terrorist attacks in the past five months, but the Government has insisted that the 30-month loyalist ceasefire is still in force. That position will be more difficult to sustain after the discovery.

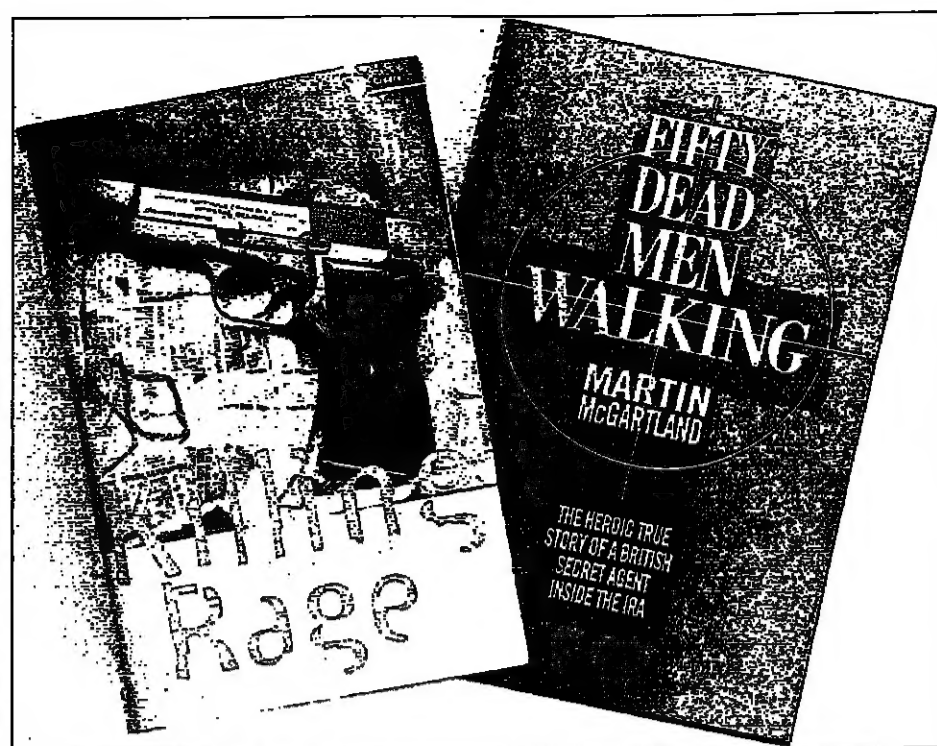
The attack will have been planned by the Ulster Defence

Association, the Ulster Volunteer Force, the Red Hand Commando or the newly formed dissident Loyalist Volunteer Force. The UDA, the UVF and the RHC come together under the umbrella of the Combined Loyalist Military Command which declared the ceasefire in October 1994. The UVF has been formed in recent weeks by hardline Loyalists.

The hardliners have long regarded the Maryfield secretariat as a prize target because the spacious offices give the Irish Government a formal consultative role in the affairs of Northern Ireland. The Irish joint secretary, David Donoghue, is entitled to consult his British opposite number, Peter Bell, on a range of issues from security to fair employment legislation. During last year's marching season, Irish civil servants at Maryfield regularly telephoned leaders of the nationalist residents' groups which opposed a series of Orange marches.

The evidence of a loyalist plan to attack Maryfield came as Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, gave a blunt warning that the IRA would maintain its terrorist campaign. In a speech to his party's annual conference in Monaghan, in the Irish Republic, he said: "The reality of British rule in Ireland means that the IRA remains a potent force in this situation, with volunteers like Diarmuid O'Neill [shot dead in London last September] prepared to unselfishly pit themselves against British rule in our country."

Mr Adams attempted to step up pressure on the next Government by hinting that the IRA would renew its ceasefire if Britain relaxed the conditions for Sinn Féin's entry to the Stormont talks. He demanded an assurance that Sinn Féin would be admitted to the talks immediately after a ceasefire and that the issue of terrorist arms would not be allowed to dominate the talks. The conference was delayed by two months to act as a springboard for the party's election campaign.



Killing Rage by Eamon Collins, below left, and Fifty Dead Men Walking by Martin McGartland, below centre. Sean O'Callaghan, right, won a £175,000 advance



Former IRA men follow SAS authors into print

By OUR CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE activities of the IRA are providing rich pickings for publishers as an unprecedented number of former terrorists rush into print with accounts of their violent lives.

Publishing houses have paid large advances to the republican authors in the hope of cashing in on the success of the recent series of books by former SAS soldiers.

Transworld Publishers, which is making millions from Andy McNab's books on the SAS, is paying a £175,000 advance to Sean O'Callaghan, the former IRA leader who acted as a police informer. The advance, which dwarfs the £100,000 paid last year to Gerry Adams for his autobiog-

raphy, was agreed after a third-floor window of a flat in West Belfast as he was being held for questioning.

The advances paid dwarf the meagre wages paid to IRA "volunteers". The IRA pays £10 a week to ordinary "volunteers" and up to £50 a week to more senior members. However, the financial rewards have come at a price. Mr O'Callaghan and Mr McGartland have been forced to live in hiding in England, while Mr Collins was badly injured in a hit and run accident on the outskirts of his hometown of Newry, Co Down, last week by a suspected republican.

Sinn Féin and the IRA have been infuriated by Mr Collins' detailed account of the six years he spent in the IRA in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Republicans are fed up with Mr O'Callaghan's relentless criticism of the IRA since his release from prison last year. A recent edition of *Republican News*, the Sinn Féin and IRA newspaper, carried a centrepiece article which sought to undermine his credibility by questioning his mental stability.

Mr O'Callaghan, 42, who was released from prison last year, will write a detailed account of the planning of the IRA's assassination of Earl Mountbatten of Burma in his boat off the west coast of Ireland in 1979. He will also link leading members of Sinn Féin with the planning of specific terrorist crimes.

Two other books by republicans who have turned their backs on the IRA were almost sold out within days of their publication last week. *Waterstone's* in Belfast and Dublin are having to order new copies of *Killing Rage*, published by Granta, which tells how Eamon Collins used the cover of his job as a customs officer in Northern Ireland to target soldiers in the early 1980s.

Blake Publishing has started a second print run of *Fifty Dead Men Walking* after 10,000 copies were sold within a week. The book is an account by a former RUC agent, Martin McGartland, of how he saved the lives of 50 men by infiltrating the IRA. Mr McGartland, 27, who was known by the RUC as "agent Carol", tells in the book of how

NEWS IN BRIEF

Striking firemen face threat of suspension

Striking firefighters in Essex have been threatened with suspension and told they will not be paid for missing part of their shift (Lin Jenkins writes). The Fire Brigades Union said the threat could escalate the dispute as firemen returned to work yesterday after a 24-hour walkout. Some were told that their pay for a whole shift would be docked even though they missed only an hour's work to comply with the union action. The union says the action has 100 per cent support. The firemen are striking over council spending cuts.

Essex County Council said it would suspend all fire crews if more strikes were called beyond the two four-hour stoppages scheduled for today and tomorrow. An official for the union said the council's response made it more difficult to settle the dispute over planned changes in the service to meet financial targets. "If they seriously believe that by docking our pay and threatening us with suspension they will help resolve this dispute, they are grossly underestimating our response," he said. During the stoppage, two of the 25 Army Green Goddesses and eight RAF rescue tenders covering the 18 fire stations, broke down as they answered more than 80 minor or malicious calls. Talks aimed at resolving the dispute ended without agreement last week.

Hargreaves death plea

The husband of the climber Alison Hargreaves is asking a Scottish court to declare her officially dead. Ms Hargreaves, 33, vanished 20 months ago while climbing in Pakistan on K2, the world's second highest peak. It was accepted that she had plunged to her death, but her body has never been recovered from the crevasses and ravines of the high glaciers. Now Jim Ballard has asked Fort William Sheriff Court to rule that his wife, who is also survived by their two children — Tom, 8, and Kate, 6 — died on August 13, 1995. Ms Hargreaves had earlier become the first woman to climb Mount Everest alone and without bottled oxygen. Three months later she similarly reached the summit of K2.

'Scots uprising' apology

The Ministry of Defence has apologised to people in the Outer Hebrides after soldiers on war games were told, in an unapproved scenario, to pretend to suppress a local uprising. About 400 members of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, among those involved in Exercise Spring Challenge in the Western Isles, were briefed to subdue the island populations of Benbecula and Uist. Troops were told that they were taking part in a simulated invasion of Benbecula because a newly formed Scottish government had asked the English for help to quash the threat of a Hebridean uprising. Some soldiers pretended to be rebel crofters trying to seize a Rapier missile system.

Hunt for missing tycoon

Israeli police have asked British detectives for their help in finding a missing multimillionaire who was a former director of Blackburn Rovers football club. Walter Hubert, 65, lived in St Anne's in Lancashire before emigrating to Israel ten years ago. He was director of the football club in the 1960s and 1970s and had served in the posts of vice-chairman and finance director. Mr Hubert, who is believed to suffer from a heart condition, is reported to have flown from Jerusalem to London on March 10. He is then reported to have visited the Czech Republic and Germany. The millionaire was last seen on March 30, when two business associates met him in Frankfurt.

Horror through the post

Four classic figures from horror literature will stare out from a new set of Royal Mail stamps issued on May 13. The stamps, featuring Dracula, right, Frankenstein's monster, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and the Hound of the Baskervilles, include details in ultra-violet ink which will glow in the dark. The technique highlights Dracula's castle in front of a glowing moon and bolts of lightning behind Frankenstein.



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Road rage victim is beaten with rice flail

By A STAFF REPORTER

A DRIVER beaten to the ground with a martial arts weapon in a "road-rage" attack underwent a five-hour operation yesterday. His family fear he may have suffered brain damage.

Jimmy Demetriou slumped to the ground in a pool of blood as the attacker, ignoring the screams of his daughter, Katrina, 13, and his wife, Suzanne, hit him seven times with a rice flail — two batons joined by a chain.

Mrs Demetriou, 34, said: "He smashed him virtually to death as he collapsed in my arms." She said the man "didn't give a damn and he didn't even bat an eyelid".

Speaking at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, east London, Mrs Demetriou said the attack happened when Mr Demetriou stopped his car shortly after leaving their home in Southgate, north London, on Saturday night to visit relatives. Katrina, in the back seat, was scared they would be hit by a car following close.

Mr Demetriou, 35, a salesman, got out of his car and said: "What's your problem?" to the other driver, who had pulled up behind. Mrs Demetriou said the attacker pulled out the rice flails and said: "This is my problem."

He struck Mr Demetriou as his wife raced around the car to try to help him. She said her daughter was running around in circles and screaming during the attack.

An 18-year-old man was being questioned by police yesterday.

Tory feud

Continued from page 1
survival of Britain as nation state is at risk because of our membership of the European Union.

There is irritation among some Tory strategists over Mr Clarke's stand. On Saturday, in the continuing row over the Tory advertisement showing Tony Blair sitting on Chancellor Kohl's knee, he said that claims that Europe was a threat were "paranoid nonsense" and yesterday he called for an end to the raising of imaginary European "plots" against Britain.

Other ministers played down the differences. Michael Heseltine said: "Both Ken and Michael are deeply opposed to changing Britain immigration policy and handing it over to Europe. I know both of them are wholly opposed to a European defence policy and a European foreign policy."

Mr Blair meanwhile claimed that he was better placed to negotiate in Amsterdam because he would have a united government behind him. He told *The World This Week* on BBC Radio: "Judge me by what I have done in the Labour Party. I have transformed it in the way I said I would. Judge Mr Major by how he has run the Conservative party which, 11 days away from the election, is in a state of civil war. Then judge who would best represent Britain in Europe."

Mr Brown said the controversy showed that the Tory Party had split into two. "This is the big one. Kenneth Clarke and Michael Howard have declared war on one another. The two Tory parties are up and running and at one another's throats. Today will be seen as the first full day of the Tory leadership campaign."

Election 97, pages 9-12
Peter Riddell, page 22
Letters, page 23

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CHANGING TIMES

Activists attack beagle breeder's home

Mother and two children cower as house is stormed

By DAREH GREGORIAN

A WOMAN and her two young children cowered in terror as animal welfare protesters attacked their home with bricks and bottles at the weekend.

Alison Little, 28, was alone with her seven-month-old daughter and son aged 4 when activists looking for her husband shattered windows and tried to kick in the front door of the house in Belmont.

The protesters were among 250 who had earlier clashed with police at a beagle breeding kennel in Hereford and Worcester, where Adam Little is manager. The group, numbering about a dozen, smashed five windows before fleeing when police arrived.

"I was lucky because a neighbour who saw the protesters arriving rang me to warn me they were on their way," Mrs Little said. "I rang 999, drew the curtains, and then scooped up my baby daughter, Amber, and told Laurence to go upstairs."

During the assault, on Saturday, "they were shouting abuse and they said this was my punishment for being married to a murdering bastard". When they started throwing things at the house I was absolutely terrified.

"I tried to explain to my little

boy what was going on because they were shouting things and he could hear the windows smashing. Then I heard the back gate going and I heard the back patio window being smashed. There was glass all over the floor and a brick had been hurled through the window.

"It was at that point that I picked up the baby and pushed my little boy into the corner away from the windows and told him to go upstairs for a few minutes.

"I then peered out of the small windows in the front door, which had been smashed, and saw a man wearing a black balaclava just staring at me with my baby in my arms. I was absolutely petrified and told them I was on my own with two small children, but I don't think they believed me.

"The lounge window then

came through and I was scared they were going to climb in. If they had got in I don't want to think about what they might have done."

The family spent last night at a different address and Mrs Little said they were going to move from the newly built house they moved into 23 months ago. "I respect these people's views, but for the sake of the children we have got to



Adam Little and some of the damage to his house after the attack at the weekend. The family plans to move

move. You never know what will be next. It could be a petrol bomb," Mrs Little said, adding: "They may say they love animals, but they scared the hell out of our cat, Winky."

Mr Little, 30, was at his job at Consort Kennels at Harewood End, near Ross-on-Wye, when the attack hap-

pened. "My children or my wife could have been hurt and I can't see that smashing windows is anything to do with loving animals," Mr Little said.

He said all the beagles at the kennels were well cared for, and although some were used for biomedical research, none

was used in research to test the safety of cosmetics.

Over 200 activists targeted Consort Kennels earlier in the day. A police spokesman said that most became "engaged in a concerted and violent attack on the premises and police officers present". Several officers were injured, one being

knocked unconscious. Twenty-four people were arrested at that protest and more arrests are expected, the spokesman said.

Police have not made any arrests connected with the assault on the Littles' home and are appealing for witnesses.

Killer tortures pub landlady to death for takings in safe

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A ROBBER tortured a pub landlady to force her to open a safe and then stabbed his victim to death, detectives said yesterday.

Carol Fyle's body was found in her bedroom above the Prince Arthur public house near Euston station, in north London, by her barman. Her elderly and blind dog was by her side unhurt.

The 36-year-old had been stabbed in the neck and £2,500 was missing from her safe. Another £300 to £500 collected for a pensioners' outing was also missing.

Appealing for witnesses, Detective Superintendent John Yates said: "It is an horrific murder. It was highly sadistic to kill this defenceless woman for what is in reality a paltry sum of money. There was no reason to kill her. It is appalling."

Regarded as a successful publican, Miss Fyle, who came from Edinburgh, had been managing the Prince Arthur for Whitbread for about 2½ years. The pub, in Eversholt Road close to the station, was described yesterday as a typical London local. Police believe that the killer slipped out of one of the bars and hid elsewhere in the building. Miss Fyle locked up, cashed the money from the tills and then got undressed for bed in her room on the second floor. Her pet bull terrier Sid was with her. Her killer seized her. She tried to struggle but was beaten about the head. She

was taken downstairs and forced to deactivate alarms. The killer made her unlock a basement office and the safe.

Police believe he then dragged her upstairs and stabbed her in the neck. As he made his way out of the pub he also took an empty gallon whisky bottle which was filled with cash, mainly banknotes, collected from a bar lottery to fund a pensioners' outing.

The dead woman was found on Friday morning by a barman who lives on another floor of the premises.

As regulars laid flowers outside the pub, Miss Fyle's boyfriend, who is a postman, was said to be in shock.

Her mother, Catherine, said she had spoken to her daughter the night before she died. She said: "She was the best daughter a mother could wish for. She never did any harm to anyone. What kind of a madman could do this?"



Carol Fyle: beaten and stabbed in the neck

Five killed in stolen car as they flee police

By RUSSELL JENKINS

FIVE young men died in a stolen car early yesterday after speeding away from a police patrol. The car broke in half when it hit a tree at 80mph (Russell Jenkins writes).

Relatives later placed flowers at the crash scene at Crumpsall, Manchester. The dead were aged from 16 to the early 20s, and three are thought to have lived in the same road. Fingerprints were being taken from the bodies to aid identification.

The Ford Orion had been reported stolen a few hours earlier by a student at Salford University. Two police officers on routine patrol in a dog van indicated for it to stop when it made a sudden halt near them at traffic lights shortly after midnight.

The stolen car accelerated away, executed an erratic U-turn across the central reservation and heading towards Cheetham, going through two sets of traffic lights. Police said that the pursuit lasted only one minute and 25 seconds before the car spun out of control after swerving to avoid another vehicle.

At that point, the police van was 150 yards behind with its siren wailing. Officers were

astounded that the car split into two, with the separate sections coming to rest at least 20 yards apart. Chief Superintendent Peter Harris, of Greater Manchester police, said: "It is probably the worst accident that some of us have ever seen. The officers in the van were quite shaken up."

Clive Heather, an operations manager for Greater Manchester ambulance service, said: "I have never witnessed the carnage that I saw. The devastation is quite traumatic."

One bunch of flowers left at the crash scene said: "To our kid, I'll miss you always." Another said: "To Jamie, Shaun, Peter and John. I will miss you always, Brian, Karl and Steve."

Bereavement counsellors were trying to help relatives. One victim's brother, who refused to be named, said: "This has devastated five families. There are five mums who have all lost sons because of this. We have come here to try to work out what happened. The police should not have been chasing them."

A police inspector from the Wigan division and the Accident Investigation Unit will investigate the incident.



Lady White: rift with family is denied

Lady White sells up for new life on Idaho farm

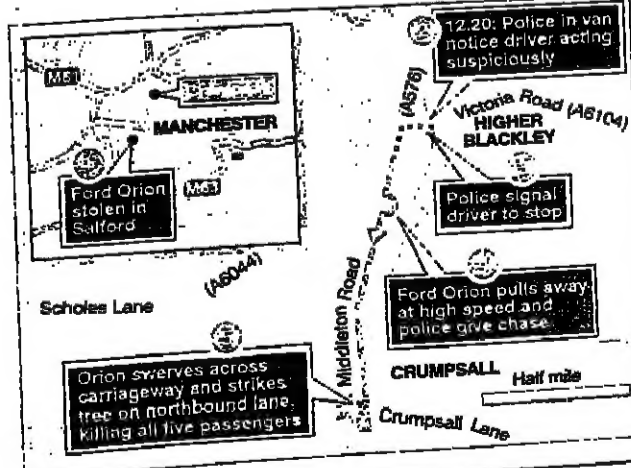
By DALYA ALBERGE

THE widow of the tycoon Lord White of Hull is selling art and antiques from their Californian mansion, because they will not fit into her new life as the bride of a millionaire Idaho farmer.

The former model Victoria Tucker, 34, who was 40 years younger than Lord White, still styles herself Lady White of Hull. An ornate Russian chandelier and bronze candelabra are among items from the Bel Air home expected to fetch about £3.5 million at Christie's in New York.

Lord White, was a swash-buckling corporate raider who built up a £10 billion empire with Lord Hanson. He was made a life peer in 1991 and died in 1995. Christie's said that some pieces to be auctioned from April 30 had been left to his widow and others to a family trust which includes Lord White's son, Lucas.

The auction house vigorously denied reports of a rift between the widow and other members of the family following her marriage to a former boyfriend, Tom O'Gara. "There is nothing sinister," said Ted Lennox-Boyd, specialist in European furniture at Christie's. "These are things that she doesn't generally see fitting into her new life."



Complaints spur watchdog to pull plug on Mr Angry

By STEPHEN FARRELL

MR ANGRY, the Irate Father and other telephone pranksters should soon be a scourge of the past after the industry watchdog abruptly lost its sense of humour.

Hoax premium-rate calls so beloved of office practical jokers have prompted many complaints. Practical jokers tell victims to call a number. They are then strung along by a recorded tape.

Last year 220 complaints were made to Ictis, the Independent Committee For the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, with a further 139 in the first quarter of 1997. Most

victims protest at the waste of time and money, but some expressed anxiety about the content.

The most common "wind-ups" include an irate father accusing the caller of making his daughter pregnant with triplets; a supposed Army barracks asking why the victim has not reported for active service in Bosnia and a woman constantly being interrupted by dogs barking.

One woman was so upset by a Mr Angry service that she called the police. Another collapsed after believing she had spoken to a driver moments before he crashed his

car. The services cost between 39p and 45p a minute, with 30 per cent going to the company that rents the line and the remainder to the firm responsible for how it is used.

One hoax lasted eight minutes and cost £3.84 at peak rates. A Bristol company was fined £3,402 after 25 complaints. Ictis plans to take emergency procedures to cut off companies that fail to warn people a practical joke is being played.

An Ictis spokeswoman said: "People do not know they are talking on a premium-rate line."

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UNISON
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Relaunch for lottery cards after nation loses itch to scratch

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE National Lottery is planning to relaunch scratchcards in an attempt to improve sales. Camelot scratchcard sales dropped to a record low of £14 million in the first week of April, from a high of £44.4 million in May 1995.

Louise White, a spokeswoman for Camelot, said the company was working on a host of ways to revive the game, which donates 28p in the pound to charity. These include a marketing push, a television game show and scores of games offering innovative prizes.

"We did predict that the market would drop, but we would not want it to fall any lower. It is not a disaster, but if it gets any lower we will not reach our targets," she said. Ms White said that Camelot had applied to the lottery regulator, Oflot, for permission to run a television game show linked to scratchcards.

Details of the game have not been confirmed, but it is expected that some cards will carry a special panel, which players would scratch for the chance of a place on the game show. On the show, they would compete for cash and luxury prizes. The BBC, which has the contract to screen the National Lottery draw until the autumn, has the first option on the show.

Ms White said that the company was also reconsidering its marketing approach to scratchcards. "We need to look at the Instant as a brand to

see if they are positioned properly," she said.

The company has found that scratchcard games with the highest jackpot prizes do not necessarily sell best. Frequently the games that offer lower prizes, but higher odds on winning, perform better.

One of the most successful lines of Camelot scratchcard featured a picture of a pig with wings and was called Pigs Might Fly, which had a top prize of £10,000 and which was issued last July. The odds on winning a prize were one in four, rather than the usual one in five.

Camelot sold 62 million Pigs Might Fly cards — almost as many as in its Christmas Bonus scratchcard game in December 1995 which had a record top prize of £100,000.

Lisa Bond, a spokeswoman for Camelot, said: "Trivial and humorous things seem to appeal to consumers, not necessarily just the big jackpots."

Ms Bond said that the company was also considering importing several scratchcard games from the Continent.

One popular version of the game in Europe does not pay out a single jackpot. Instead winners get a fixed sum at regular intervals. "The prize could be £100 a month for the next year," Ms Bond said.

Camelot launched its first scratchcard game in March 1995. The decline in scratch-

card sales can be dated back to the week in January 1996 when Camelot's online lottery game offered its first double rollover jackpot. Camelot's main scratchcard rival, Littlewoods, has also seen its sales decline to around £1 million a week, from roughly double that.

Andrew Slamin, director of sales and marketing with Littlewoods scratchcards, said: "The market constantly needs new products to keep going. We have found that each game should not last more than ten to 12 weeks."

Sales of Camelot's online game are stable. Since a second weekly online draw was introduced in February, weekly sales have risen by 20 per cent to around £97 million a week. Saturday draw sales have declined slightly from around £66 million to £60 million, but the midweek draw is now selling around 27 million tickets a week.



Peter Tatchell of the gay rights group Outrage! confronting Dr Carey in the gardens of Lambeth Palace yesterday

Gay rights protesters confront archbishop

BY LIN JENKINS

GAY rights campaigners waved banners when they ambushed the Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday at a photocall in his palace garden for 16 primates from around the world. Dr George Carey was clearly angry as Peter Tatchell, of Outrage!, berated him over the Church of England's stance on homosexuality.

He told Mr Tatchell that his manner was offensive and asked him to leave. Scuffles broke out as palace staff tried to restrain Mr Tatchell when he grabbed Dr Carey's arm.

Dr Carey, who is hosting a meeting to plan next year's Lambeth Conference, was showing his visitors around the gardens at Lambeth Palace. Mr Tatchell and nine other protesters had climbed over the wall and hidden in bushes.

Mr Tatchell said the action was in response to Dr Carey's refusal to meet the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement and comments rejecting clergy participation in homosexual relationships.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

TV inquisitor's penetrating gaze hides blind spot

FEW of Mrs Merton's fans have noticed that she has one very dominant eye. When Mrs Merton strips the veneer from her victims, she does it with an outrageous question, an amusing little laugh and her famous penetrating stare.

But the more remarkable as she is almost blind in one eye.

Caroline Aherne, who plays Mrs Merton, a spoof elderly television chat-show host, was born with a retinoblastoma, a malignant growth on the retina, which affects about one in every 20,000 children. Retinoblastoma is not always an hereditary disease, but it is in the 10 per cent of cases where other members of the family are affected and in the 20-30 per cent of cases in which both eyes are affected by the tumour.

Anyone who suffers from the inherited form of the disease, as Ms Aherne does, has a 50-50 chance of passing the gene responsible for the condition to the next generation.

Inheriting the gene does not always result in the recipient developing a tumour, as only about 20 per cent of the children who have it become carriers, free of the cancer but capable of later passing it to their children.

As Ms Aherne has a family history of the disease — her brother is also affected, and in his case both eyes have been involved — any child she might have would have an even chance of having a

retinoblastoma. Not unrealistically, she says she has decided not to take the risk. Although rare, tumour retinoblastomas account for about 2 per cent of the cancers which are diagnosed in children. The diagnosis is usually made before the child is two.

If the cancer is treated in its earlier stages, the therapy is nearly always life preserving. If only one eye has been affected it can be removed. If both eyes are affected the worst can be taken out and the other treated with radiation; other methods involve laser treatment and chemotherapy.

Ms Aherne has described how her elder brother's eye troubles were first diagnosed because their mother noticed that when a light shone into them the pupil appeared to be white rather than black. She was describing a sign which is now known as the "cat's eye pupil". Once suspicion has been aroused, further tests can define the extent of the disease.

About 70 per cent of patients with the inherited form of the disease will, despite the treatment they already have, develop a second tumour.

This new growth may either occur in a previously untreated part of the retina or, in about half the cases, in an area already irradiated. Further treatment is then needed.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

TUESDAY

10 P

TIMES

SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 2.

OFFER NOT VALID IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND OR MAINLAND EUROPE

News Release

21 April 1997

NATWEST LAUNCHES A FREE WINDFALL SHARE GUIDE

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Pages of instant history crumbling to dust

By ALAN HAMILTON

A NATIONAL archive of great importance is gradually turning to dust in a wholly unsuitable building in an obscure corner of north London.

The British Library newspaper library at Colindale is the repository of the nation's press. More than 600,000 bound volumes fill 18 miles of shelving, and each year some 40,000 researchers dig in the library's boundless mine of instant history.

But newspapers contain the seeds of their own destruction. Cheap wood-pulp paper, introduced in the 1840s and in universal use as newsprint ever since, is chemically unstable and has a limited shelf life. As a result, dozens of the library's volumes are now so fragile, and on the verge of

crumbling to brown powder, that they can no longer be made available to readers.

Built in 1930, the library is an antiquated warren with no means of controlling temperature or humidity to protect the newspapers from decay. It is also bursting at the seams: volumes have to be stored upright, rather than flat, which aids preservation.

Under copyright law, publishers must send a copy of every edition to Colindale: last year alone it was deluged with 180,000 copies of Britain's 2,700 newspaper titles.

The answer, say librarians, is microfilming, and all newspapers now arriving are filmed. Film is much more stable and takes a fraction of the space, but they already



John Byford inspects some of the fragile newspapers

have 320,000 reels of it. However, a vast stock of older newspapers still exists only in delicate printed form, and is in danger of being lost forever.

The library is preparing a bid for a lottery grant to finance a backlog of filming: no fewer than 11 million newspaper pages are at risk, and it would cost an estimated £1.8 million to film them.

Librarians prefer microfilming to scanning the papers with an electronic reader and storing their contents on com-

puter. Film, they argue, is simple and permanent: in a century's time, today's digital technology may well have gone the way of the wax gramophone cylinder.

Curiously, many of Colindale's best-preserved newspapers are its oldest. Copies of the *Edinburgh Gazette* of 1699, or the *Cambridge Journal* of the 1720s, printed on virtually indestructible paper made from rags, have deteriorated little since they hit the streets.

Colindale is the poor relation of the British Library, and its annual budget of around £1.25 million is loose change when compared with the £500 million cost of building the British Library's state-of-the-art headquarters at St Pancras, which already has no room for the newspaper collection.

But Colindale is so well used that last year it had to open an additional reading room to reduce the queues. John Byford, the librarian, said he received more than 1,000 applications for readers' tickets each year, and the number was growing.

"There is a rising awareness among students of all disciplines of what newspapers can provide. They are valuable because they record what was happening at the time. They are irreplaceable: they tell you far more than books, often written years later, of what was going on at a particular time."

His customers are a varied lot. Many are tracing family history, a good few are lawyers boning up on the background to a case, some are novelists researching period

colour, and a steady trickle are the merely curious who ask for back copies of *Radio Times* to see what was on television 30 years ago.

Irish historians often make their way to Mr Byford's front door. Since the Irish set fire to many of their own archives during the troubles of 1921, Colindale retains the world's best collection of Irish newspapers. It also claims to have the only complete collection in existence of *The Sun*.

However, the title most in demand is, naturally, *The Times*. While lesser journals are bound for the library shelves in common old buckram, we are gratified to record that copies of this newspaper are clothed in the finest goat-skin morocco.

Letters, page 23

Leaflet drop for Kashmir hostages

Relatives of two British hostages captured in Kashmir 21 months ago have dropped leaflets by helicopter appealing for information. Paul Wells and Keith Mangan were among six hostages taken in July 1995 by terrorists opposed to Indian rule in Kashmir. Bob Wells, Paul's father, Catherine Moseley, his girlfriend, and Julie Mangan, Mr Mangan's wife, were accompanied by James Bowman of the *Hostages in Kashmir* campaign.

Rail workers hurt

Three rail workers were injured, one seriously, when a train derailed on the trackside scaffolding where they were carrying out bridge repairs on the line between Leves and Eastbourne in Sussex. The accident, involving a ballast train, happened near Glyde.

Horses corralled

Dublin is to get a special horse pound after a number of people have been injured by stray horses. A baby was recently hurt when a runaway horse overturned his pram. The pound will be secure and owners will have to pay to reclaim their animals.

Hospital Bill

A hospital has been given its own policeman to combat crime and violence against staff. Special Constable Lloyd Tyrrell is to patrol Kettering General Hospital as a part of his beat, said Northamptonshire Police. Security cameras are also to be installed.

Brewers' hiccup

A beer festival was unable to open for a final session yesterday at Tucker's Maltings in Newton Abbot, Devon, because it ran out of beer. About 14,000 pints plus back-up supplies had been drained since Thursday night, after 4,000 real-ale fans arrived.

Queen in drag

A town carnival which could not find a procession queen last year is prepared to enrol a man in drag for this year's event. Janet Barber, the carnival chairman at Okehampton, Devon, said: "If a young man wanted to come forward for fun, we would be happy."

Roy Kinnear in *Hot Water*, a 1978 commercial for home improvement grants

Classic propaganda films offer second take on vanished Britain

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

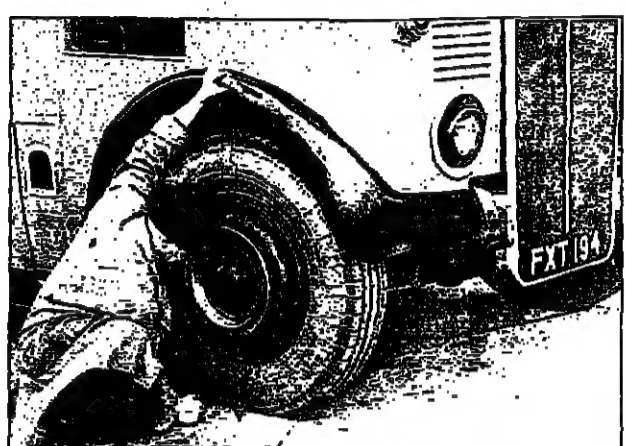
GOVERNMENT propaganda films are to be marketed for the first time by a private company. The black and white reels, many used as cinema shorts after the Second World War, are to be made available to television, film and CD-Rom producers.

The films come from an era when government advertisements were polite — no hard-hitting warnings about Aids, for example — and staffed by characters of the type latterly satirised by Harry Enfield.

Charley, the cynical Englishman who did not believe the promises of the National Health Service, is just one cartoon character who could be set for a comeback. "Why should I pay National Insurance?" was one of his catchphrases. He was the original British moaning Minnie, used to sell the merits of the NHS and how it would work.

The 1970s "Clunk Click Every Trip" message from Jimmy Savile persuaded the country to belt up behind the wheel, while children will remember how they were taught to cross the road with the Green Cross Code.

In the light of the *E. coli* outbreak, *Clean Food* might deserve a re-release. The 1950s film reminded people about



On the road: a bus inspector checks safety rules; the Green Cross Man warns children



personal hygiene and instructed butchers how to store and display meat.

Richard Massingham's public information trailers might also be revived. "Coughs and sneezes spread diseases" was one of his creations.

The official moving image of British daily life has been chronicled for the past 50 years by the Central Office of Information, which promotes the British way of life abroad and delivers public messages at home. Last week more than 10,000 films were transferred from the COI's headquarters in Waterloo to vaults near Euston Station, London in readiness for possible reuse.

The Crown will retain copyright and ownership and the Treasury hopes to generate some income.

Peter Fidler, of Film Images, which will market the clips, said last night: "We are going to transfer all the old film on to video and we are going to compile new listings of the available material. There is so much fascinating material here."

"It could be ideal for nostalgia television shows and for any independent producers wishing to show how Britain was."

The move represents the end of an era for Peter Steel, who has worked in the film division at the COI for 37

years. He is to retire shortly, but last night said of the films: "They are nostalgic and educational. It is a wonderful way to see how we were. One of the most amusing films is *Journey on a London Bus*. It was made for the African colonies and you see two Africans arriving in London and boarding a bus for the first time. There is no queue-jumping, no pushing, everyone is polite, and the driver makes every effort to keep his bus on time."

"It's a 'feelgood' factor, but we made the film to show the colonies how to operate a bus. It was to influence people about our way of life and society."

Clergy wives afraid to tell of violence

CLERGYMEN'S wives who suffer mental, physical or sexual abuse by their husbands hesitate to ask the Church for help for fear of being turned away, according to researchers (Derek Gregorin writes).

The study also cites clerical abuse of women from outside the Church who had suffered counselling. It urges church leaders to recognise the problem and to

establish a code of conduct with disciplinary measures to deal with abusers. Researchers at Edinburgh University conducted a two-year study involving interviews with 23 women who had suffered violence from church leaders.

They included six clergy wives. One woman from the North of England lived with physical abuse from her vicar husband for 22 years before getting a

divorce. She tells her story on BBC1's *Here and Now* tonight. Lesley MacDonald, who co-ordinated the project, said: "Rather than giving refuge and support to the victims of abuse, the Church has tended to give refuge to the perpetrators of abuse. There has been a tendency for a closing of ranks." She will present the findings to church leaders at a conference in Edinburgh on Saturday.

All-night wait leaves opera fans standing

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A PENSIONER and his daughter queued for almost 18 hours to be first in line for tickets for the new Glyndebourne season. They could afford standing tickets only. Jeffrey Levett, 67, and his daughter Kate, 29, were among 450 opera lovers waiting when the box office opened for personal callers on Saturday morning in East Sussex. They had arrived at 3.30pm on Friday from Dorking, Surrey.

Ms Levett, a care assistant for the elderly and disabled, said: "We brought camp beds and blankets and slept right in front of the booking office." On a limited budget, they bought £10 tickets for Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. The majority of seats cost between £57 and £114, although some are between £16 and £36. Priority is given to members of the Festival Society, followed by those on the waiting list. The wait for membership is about 25 years. However, the number of tickets sold is restricted so that up to 40 per cent are available to the general public.

Ms Levett said: "It saddens me that seats are so expensive." Her father said: "We got about five hours' sleep. There were 45 to 50 people by midnight. There was a good feeling, lots of merriment." A Glyndebourne spokesman said: "People brought picnics and flasks. Some had a Buck's Fizz breakfast. It was like the festival but in woulies. It's that British thing about queuing. It's heartwarming."

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Barclays	13.9%	£200.66	£9,631.12	£671.44
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A diver collects sea urchin samples in Loch Creran, north of Oban. Farmed urchin roe has been sent to France for gastronomic approval

Salmon farmers look to sea urchin for salvation

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A POTENTIALLY lucrative industry is emerging off the west coast of Scotland, where scientists have pioneered the farming of sea urchins. They have found the urchins grow rapidly to a healthy size alongside salmon in cages.

The spiny shellfish, whose roe is much prized by gastronomes across the world in a market worth £500 million, has previously only been available from the wild. However, over-fishing has led to a decline in stocks.

Scottish fish farmers, whose profits from salmon farming have taken a beating because of stiff competition from overseas, most notably Norway, are hoping the scientists' breakthrough will reverse their fortunes.

Test batches of the eggs are being sent to France for approval by leading chefs. Maeve Kelly, one of the scientists involved in the research programme, said yesterday: "The species we are trying to farm is highly favoured in Paris, we understand." Dr Kelly, of the Scottish Association of Mar-

ine Science in Oban, Argyll, said the roe had a creamy texture and resembled "hazelnut with a hint of iodine". "The taste is initially very sweet with a long aftertaste that is, well, like urchin."

The breakthrough followed a chance observation early in 1992, when a sea cage used for farming salmon was found to contain thousands of sea urchins which had collected on the netting. The scientists found that *Psammechinus miliaris* appears to thrive with farmed Atlantic salmon.

After three months, urchins growing in the cages developed far bigger gonads, full of eggs, than urchins in the wild or ones farmed in cages without salmon. The species of urchin tested normally graze on kelp beds in the wild, but Dr Kelly said the research showed that they also thrived on the rich protein and oily diet fed by farmers to the salmon. Farmers could have two harvests for the price of one.

Last year the scientists, who are working with fish

farmers who include Joseph Johnston and Sons of Ardtoe, Highland, won backing from the Natural Environment Research Council under the Trade and Industry Department's Link scheme. Full-scale sea trials are underway off Scourie, Highland.

Elizabeth Cook, a member of the team, said the beauty of *Psammechinus miliaris* was that, unlike other species on the European market, it tolerates cooler temperatures and lower water quality. She said it might also be possible to grow sea urchins alongside scallops. Another firm involved in the project, Loch Fyne Seafoods, has found that sea urchins settle and grow rapidly on scallop lines.

There are still some questions to be answered. Dr Kelly said they want to make sure the urchins do not pick up any viruses from the salmon. They are also studying special feeds to boost growth. She said it was hoped to scale up the research and create a commercial sea urchin fishery in "two to five years' time".

Robot puts Daisy in charge of the milking

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE fully automated milking parlour, in which cows come to be milked when the urge takes them and without need of direct human assistance, is about to change the face of British dairy farming.

On April 9, at a research farm near Winchester in Hampshire, the first cows began being milked not by a farmhand but by a computer-guided robot. Nearly two weeks on, they are still showing every sign of enjoying the experience.

"We have been astonished by how quickly the cows adapted," Bridget Drew, head of dairy research at the centre, said. "We will need six months to be sure there are no unforeseen hitches, but so far things look promising."

"I believe automated milking is better for the cows and could remove much of the drudgery from dairy farming, particularly for the small family outfit where the son does not want to get up at 4am after a late night out."

The system is being tested at Adas Bridgford, one of a network of experimental centres run by the newly privatised Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, the former research and consultancy arm of the Ministry of Agriculture. About 20 cows

brought in from neighbouring farms for the purpose, are taking part in the experiment. At the moment they live and sleep indoors next to the milker, but the aim is eventually to integrate the system with normal summer grazing.

Each cow wears an electronic collar, or transponder, which contains a number enabling the robot to recognise each animal individually and relate it to information stored in the computer database. After the cow enters the milking stall, or box, a gate closes behind it, and it is held gently in position by metal-barred side panels. While being milked, the cow feeds from a trough that is automatically filled with a pre-programmed portion of cereal-based concentrate.

A robotic arm with four upturned rubber cups extends beneath the cow's udder, locating the position of the four teats by means of ultrasonic sensors and then jiggling about until each teat has been sucked into one of the cups. "Once the cluster of cups is in position, it floats freely and can cope with any shuffling or even the occasional kick from the cow," according to Maarten van der Drift, product manager for Liberty Dairy Systems, the British distributor of the Dutch-developed machine.

"The cows seem to like it," he said. "We have had one which came back to be milked 15 times in one day, although that was unusual. The aim is to milk each cow three times a day, compared with the twice-a-day norm on most dairy farms."

The evidence so far is that milking three times daily raises milk yield by up to a fifth. Proponents of the automated system say more frequent milking is also better for the cow because it relieves pressure on the udder.



A cow in the trial wears its transponder collar

Stress gives eels that sinking feeling

BY A STAFF REPORTER

DEPRESSED eels are to have their problems examined in a £1 million project organised by the European Commission. Eel farmers have found that the normally active creatures are turning listless and sinking to the bottom of their tanks.

Eels are now classed as one of the most expensive delicacies in the world, but it is thought that attempts to take advantage of the market have led to behavioural stress.

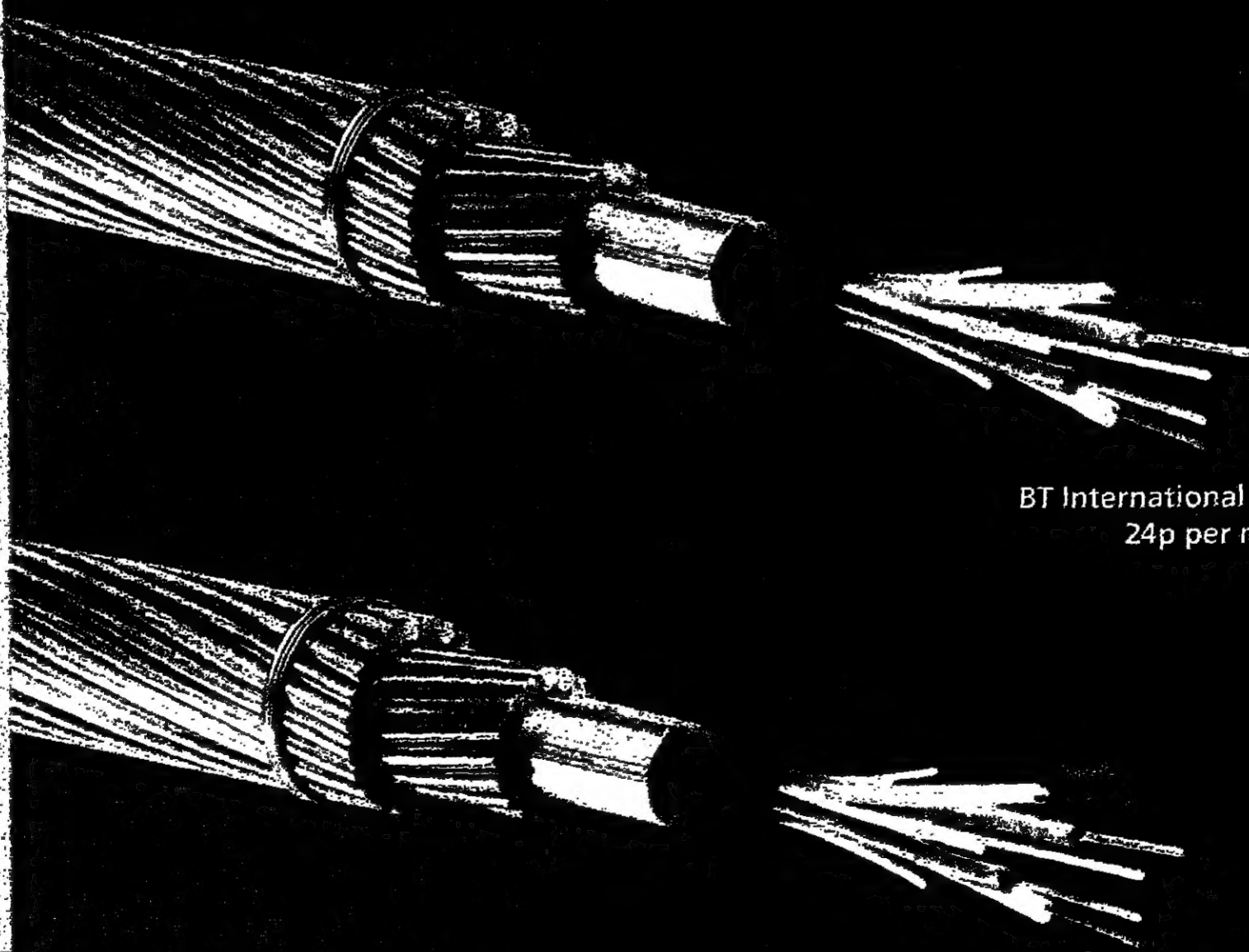
Two British scientists, Stewart Owen and David McKenzie from Birmingham University, who have been allocated £48,000 of the grant, will be among a team travelling to an experimental plant near Milan for a year of research. Dr Owen, 28, a psychologist, said: "Eels have

become a real delicacy in Europe, Japan and China, but they are about six times more expensive than salmon.

"Not enough are caught to keep up with demand, so eel farming has become an expanding industry across Europe." Farms raise the eels to market size in large recirculating water systems.

"The carbon dioxide produced by the growing fish dissolves in the water and increases its acidity, causing respiratory problems and behavioural stresses which reduce productivity. The eels simply use up all of their energy and sink to the bottom of the tank. I will be looking at the behaviour of the eels and what happens when there is less carbon dioxide in the tanks."

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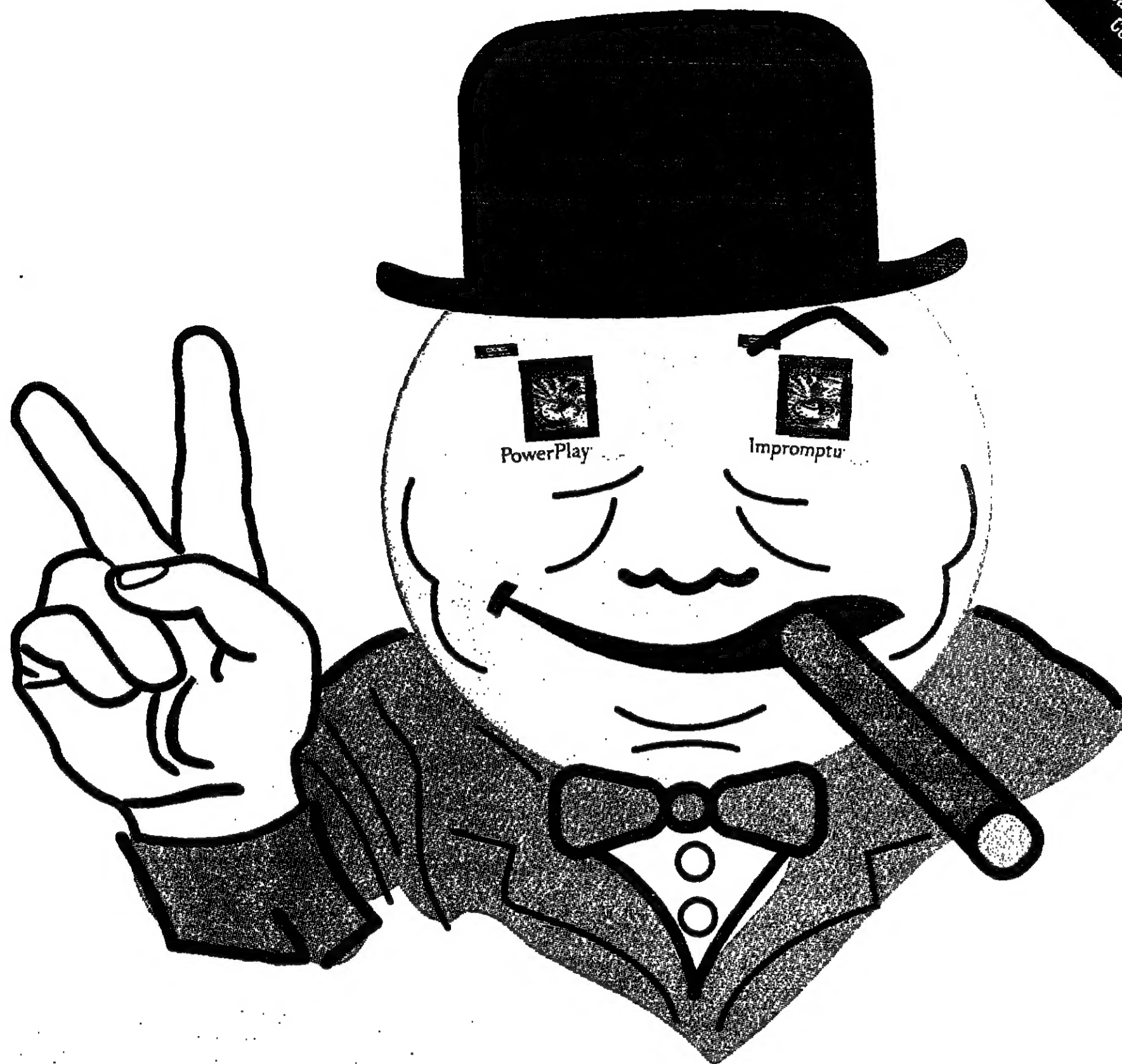
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ELECTION 97

POLL DAY
-10

**'Anonymous' gives his verdict
on the Blair campaign**
'Primary Colors' author on the hustings
Quentin Letts - page 10

**'Suddenly everyone is
talking about life after
the election'**
Nicholas Wapshott - page 10



**Inside Labour's
secret nerve
centre**
Details - page 11

Major looks to his place in history

The Times,
continuing its
interviews with
party leaders,
talks to the
Prime Minister

By PETER STOTHARD

I have not had any experience of leading a party in opposition," says the Prime Minister to Peter Riddell at the start of our interview in Downing Street on Saturday morning. But, if a Labour government were to try to take Britain into a single European currency, "I would probably allow backbenchers a free vote.

We have barely settled ourselves into the White Drawing Room's armchairs. I have only just noted John Major's diamond-patterned sweater and the sharp spring light through the casements that illuminate this comfortable, familiar person of government. The very words "in opposition" suddenly make it all seem different.

Major is carefully answering Riddell's question about the Conservative Party's chronic disunity. He is quiet, confident and only occasionally tense. But it is hard to concentrate on what he is saying. My thoughts swim out and past the man who is sitting in front of us and forward into future questions that most of us have yet fully to confront.

What would a Tory free vote in opposition mean? Would Major really be the man who granted it? Would Tory leadership challengers Michael Portillo or Michael Howard match the pledge? Or would they risk a split in the party by insisting on a united Conservative front to save sterling? Surely a free vote would make it easier for Tony Blair to take Britain into EMU, relying on opposition disarray and an extra 50 or more Tory votes on top of his own?

The Prime Minister is already warning us about such speculation. "I would probably allow backbenchers a free vote and, before this is subjected to hieroglyphic textual analysis, I say 'probably' because that is my inclination," he says with one of his unending smiles. But speculation is impossible to avoid. Major is to look a long way back in the next hour of conversation, reassessing his record, seeing his successes and mistakes, placing himself in Tory history and opening up new avenues of thought about what will happen next.

Riddell presses the question of a future free vote on EMU once again. Even if Major is not to be the Tory leader, he can certainly now set the opening terms for his successor. "I would discuss it with the Shadow Cabinet," he says, "but on an issue like this, the like of which we have not seen before, I don't think that it is an impossible whip." His thumb quivers rapidly as he speaks, as though such decisions of opposition are as unimaginable as the whip would be impossible. This is a Prime Minister who, like his party, is only half-prepared for defeat.

Major denies that he feels personally isolated by the defections from party policy of so many MPs over the past week. He persists in his protestations that they are unwise, wrong and may yet return to

his path after the election. But what does the man who has been negotiating for Britain really feel now about monetary union? No one knows. The proud mask of the negotiator has obscured the truth from everyone. Our columnist, Anatole Kaletsky, pushes at this notoriously resistant disguise to seek an answer.

"If you want to know the gut instinct that is in here," Major replies, "it is that I would like Europe to work... but that their economic policies are wrong... and that our partners are pushing the national patience in more than one country to such an extent that they may end up weakening their institutions." This answer, which in its original form is at considerable and informative length, is still unsatisfactory on the question of the Prime Minister's own instincts about the future.

He is clear enough about the precipitate judgment of those Conservative colleagues who have abandoned his policy of "negotiate and decide". He suggests that their resistance is merely "rolling-day deep". "They are facing an election and they are setting out what their instincts are," he refuses to admit that they form a new straitjacket around the Tory leadership. "If I had been worried about straitjackets over the past ten years, I would probably have been carried away in one." The flapping white coats, as we recall, were reserved for his opponents.

But what about his own verdict for or against, or even some sort of interim verdict? "What I will do is what I happen to think is in the best interests of the country. I may not actually be what my innate instinct might be. I don't know what judgment I am going to reach. A world exists out there that intrudes into the cosy consensus that politicians may have."

This remark is addressed at all of us. But just as his interviewers, beyond him to the problems of the next Tory leader, so the Prime Minister seems to be speaking less to us than to the next occupant of the drawing room in which we sit. He is about to offer Blair an extraordinary opportunity

for private lessons in the art of dealing with the devious Europeans who want to do Britain down.

He emphasises first that it is not the principle of closer European integration that he opposes but the policies, and particularly the people, which go with it. "If you say something that isn't approved by the Commission or hasn't previously been agreed by some of the large countries, it is like spitting in church. I am sick and tired of the fact that I spit out the truth in politics every time I go to Europe and all I get repeated back here from them, with careful leaks from the Commission, is poor old Britain, isolated again."

This continuous pressure comes, he says, from "an institution that is creaking, going in the wrong direction, pushing the national states too far and will break up if it carries on as it is going". Riddell asks him how long he has been so sick and tired of it all. "My views of Europe," he says, "have changed with the experience of sitting round the European table. It is impossible to sit round the table and not be cynical about the way in which business is conducted. And I resent that."

Was it Maastricht that created this cynicism? "No, no, no," he says, chopping downwards through the air with his hand as though some faithless French bureaucrat were beneath his axe. "It was post-Maastricht. You reach a perfectly agreeable agreement. You find some Commission official out there briefing. One thing your partner saying one thing at the meeting and another outside. You sit at a meeting. You argue the case alone and then you find some of your fellow politicians coming up to you afterwards and saying that was exactly right. And you say to them, why didn't you say anything yourself? And they say, blur, blur, blur."

"We have a robust political system here. It is not an artificial stitch-up in a back room which is what you get with so many of the continental politicians. Take the working-time directive. I thought I had guarded against that com-

ing out of the social chapter. And what did those so-and-soes do? They brought it forward under Health and Safety."

The passion in these words is palpable even in the pale calm of this Saturday morning. Major has stopped chopping heads and is unscrewing the top of his Highland Spring water as though he were wringing some Belgian's neck. Then he screws the top tightly back as if to make sure that the man is dead. "If Tony Blair were Prime Minister and he asked my advice about how to handle European negotiations, he could have it — and in complete privacy and frankness. He could be absolutely certain that I would tell him what the positions of the others were."

We ask if he thinks that Blair might take his offer up. He says that he doesn't know him well enough to judge. "We are different types of people." We ask him what he means by that. "Well, I don't see Tony sitting all day at a cricket

match with his feet up. He has other interests."

Kaletsky suggests that he could easily see Blair asking for his predecessor's advice. Major seems almost to be looking forward to the prospect. "But they wouldn't be the only things I would tell him. I have just scratched the surface of what I have learnt over the past few years about Europe. These things are more important than party politics."

Kaletsky then tries to return the conversation to what Major would want to achieve in these future negotiations whose details he insists on keeping secret — from everybody except his successor. If you were Prime Minister, would you try to bring in new safeguards for Britain in EMU? "I have always kept the option open," he stalls. "But I do dismiss the option flatly and absolutely unequivocally of any concept of losing control of fiscal policy."

"If you don't control your own taxation — and I'm talking about income taxation,

that is a matter that infringes upon... [his voice fades way before it is clear what precisely it infringes upon]... Parliament is based on the granting of supply; it is the very essence of parliament."

Major seems to have no objection in principle to Britain giving up its power to issue or to regulate its money. The Eurosceptics of his party may enjoy the rough rhetoric in this interview; but in the substance of our talk only "income taxation", not value-added tax, corporation tax or duties, was kept as an essence of British self-government.

As the level of his Highland Spring water marks the passage of our interviewing time, a gap between Major the frustrated negotiator and Major the frustrated campaigner grows ever more apparent. This is the gap at the very heart of the Prime Minister's European problem in this election.

Major the campaigner makes a fierce defence of the Blair-as-Kohl's-dummy poster. "Politics has become so pompous, Peter," he says to Riddell, recalling some of the hard ways that he himself has been portrayed over the years. "There is a rough-and-tumble about politics that is part of its charm. Mockery is a legitimate political weapon and has been since the dawn of time." He turns to me to criticise that morning's Times front page, which leads on Lord Howe's criticism of the poster. "I think politics is fun as well as important. I am astonished that a letter from Geoffrey Howe should have received such massive coverage in such a world-famous newspaper as The Times."

Major the negotiator takes a rather different view of political caricature and the requirement for simple black-and-white ideas and images. "I have been Prime Minister for six and a half years and how many people out there really understand what I know about Europe? You may say it is my failure. I long for the capacity to have these big issues crystallised in a straightforward way that does not mislead the public. In crystallising it, you so often trivialise it."

To crystallise or not to

crystallise? To put Blair on Kohl's knee or not to make a dummy of the man who could be leading Britain after May? To trivialise or not to trivialise? Major tells us that it is the job of the politician "to remove the fears of the electorate, not to play to them"; and then he plays to them and justifies his tactic by his failure (and the media's failure) to get his message across in any other way.

Major is in the last days of a dilemma. It is a dilemma that has been central to our understanding of him and even, perhaps, to his understanding of himself.

Like all politicians approaching the end of office, he looks to his place in the line of his predecessors. When Riddell asks him why the European issue came up so suddenly in the campaign and why he made his dramatic party election broadcast last week, he borrowed both the words and the sonorities of Harold Macmillan: "Events, dear boy, events." He cites the same inspiration when he explains why he rejected the pure Euroscepticism to which his personal frustration and pressure from press and colleagues could easily have driven him. "There is what Harold Macmillan once memorably called A Middle Way."

He evokes, too, the spirit of Disraeli, Neville Chamberlain ("a great social reformer in the 1920s") and Iain Macleod ("the people who brought me into politics"). He explains his love of the welfare state both in terms of the party's history and his own. The dominant achievement of the past five years is, he says, an economy that is strong enough to allow the reforms of health and

welfare that need to be made. He even praises the British electorate for rising above purely economic preferences in their political choices: "a rather attractive posture by the voters," he calls it.

He certainly does not want to walk away from the opportunity to spend the results of his anti-inflationary labours. Although he praises Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke for their courage, he sees the achievement of low inflation as essentially his own, the top item in the ledger of his achievements.

Will he have no option but to walk away? He confesses that he is baffled by the opinion polls. He finds so much "warm support" around the country, but admits that he may be being misled by "the innate politeness of the British nation."

He does not mention Margaret Thatcher in our interview. He evokes her only once, when he is talking about how he feels in this difficult and depressing election campaign for Conservatives. "Yes, I am enjoying myself at the moment," he says. An image came swooping down to us of Mrs Thatcher, on the day that she announced her resignation as Prime Minister, telling Dennis Skinner how much she too was enjoying herself.

As we leave, Major turns to the troubles of Surrey County Cricket Club, the problems of success in having so many star players, the dangers of failing if they all play for national sides this season rather than their county, his pleasure in Mark Butcher's century for England A. He leans forward to make cover drives across the carpet. The White Drawing Room is a temporary sight-screen as well as a temporary home.



Bring back school cane, say rebel Tory candidates

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

TEN Tory candidates in Wales last night delivered a short, sharp message to the Prime Minister: bring back the cane. They said that corporal punishment should be restored in schools as a last resort. The candidates believe that the traditional values held in Welsh farming and valley communities would make the policy a vote-

winner. One of them, the Rev Felix Aibel, a Welsh-speaking Congregational minister and Tory candidate for Ceredigion, west Wales, has included his belief in the cane in his election address.

He said last night: "There are strong links with the chapels and Nonconformism in Wales and in these communities traditional values such as good discipline are strong." Dr Aibel, 36, a bachelor

and huntsman, who was caned several times at his school at Rhydyfelin in Pontypridd, South Wales, said that he believed the cane should be used for serious discipline problems such as theft, assault and insubordination.

The advocates of the cane make up a quarter of Welsh Tory candidates and their stance threatens to revive the row last autumn when Gillian Shepherd, the Educa-

tion Secretary, suggested that corporal punishment could be restored if teachers and governors demanded it. Mr Major immediately made clear that this was not the government view.

David Davies, 25, a candidate in Bridgend, said last week that if elected he would bring forward a Private Member's Bill. "The cane should be used sparingly as a deterrent," he said. "I have seen it

working in places like Singapore, where there is a zero crime rate. We should be looking at their regime, not just on how to deal with unruly pupils but also for muggers and other criminals."

Robert Buckland, 28, a barrister fighting the new seat of Preseli Pembrokeshire, said: "We are a humane and compassionate people, but we are not frightened to exert reasonable punishment."

TUESDAY
10
P
TIMES
SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 2
OFFER NOT VALID IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND OR MAINLAND EUROPE

Inside Labour's campaign HQ: how the party's formidable election-fighting machine operates

The Millbank Tendency

AT last each morning a single touch to a computer keyboard on the first floor of a modern building facing the Thames a few hundred yards from the Houses of Parliament sends a daily briefing to the fax machines of every one of the 639 Labour candidates fighting the general election.

Labour's campaign headquarters in Millbank Tower is the most sophisticated, efficient and authoritarian election-fighting machine ever used in Britain. And it is likely to change the way that elections will be fought in this country.

The "Daily Brief" outlines the topic of the day that will be unveiled at Labour's morning news conference, details of any stories that are breaking in that morning's national newspapers, Labour's line on them and any other clarifications of official party policy.

During the day the Policy and Administration Unit will update the candidate by fax, mobile telephone or message pager with developments from the news conference, any changes in party lines, and areas where the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have become vulnerable.

Further, the Key Campaigns Task Force will ensure

press chief, answering a request from *The Times* to see what goes on beyond the ground floor briefing room. "And nobody is going up there at any time for any reason."

THE BUILDING

Millbank Tower is built on land owned by the Queen. In December 1995 the Labour Party took a two-year lease for £86,000 from the leaseholders, Legal & General, with options until 2002 — the last possible date for the next general election.

The party has use of the ground and second floors of the 30-storey 1960s Grade II listed building. At 8.30am each day scores of journalists fill the 240-seat ground-floor auditorium for the morning press conference. All must be accredited and pass through a metal detector.

The party gears up for its own press conference with a 7.30am meeting of key staff in the first-floor War Room chaired by Gordon Brown. It reviews any changes necessary to the party's "line of the day" depending on developments on the late-night political programmes such as *Newsnight* and the morning national newspapers.

Entry from the ground floor to the first floor is controlled through one door by a "proximity swipe card" bearing the holder's name and picture. The first floor is controlled through one door by a "proximity swipe card" bearing the holder's name and picture. The first floor is controlled through one door by a "proximity swipe card" bearing the holder's name and picture.

THE PEOPLE

The Millbank tendency is crammed with recent graduates on short contracts. Nearly all were involved with Labour's student wing or the National Union of Students. Most have been lobbyists or parliamentary researchers at Westminster. Aides to senior figures such as Gordon Brown, Jack Straw, Tessa Jowell and Alun Michael have moved to Millbank for the campaign.

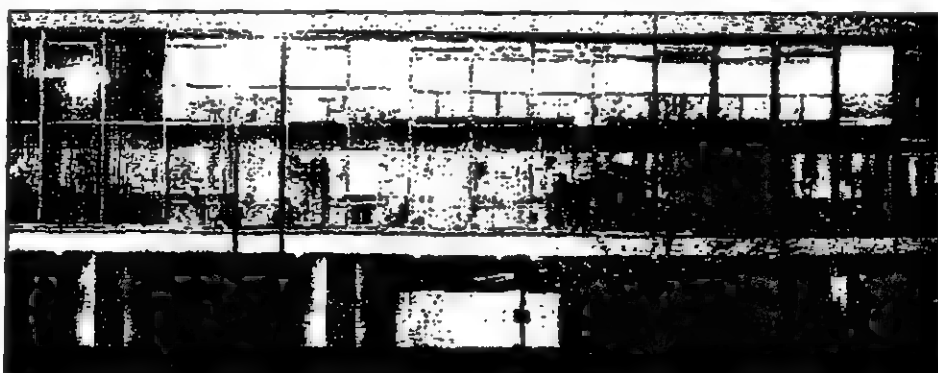
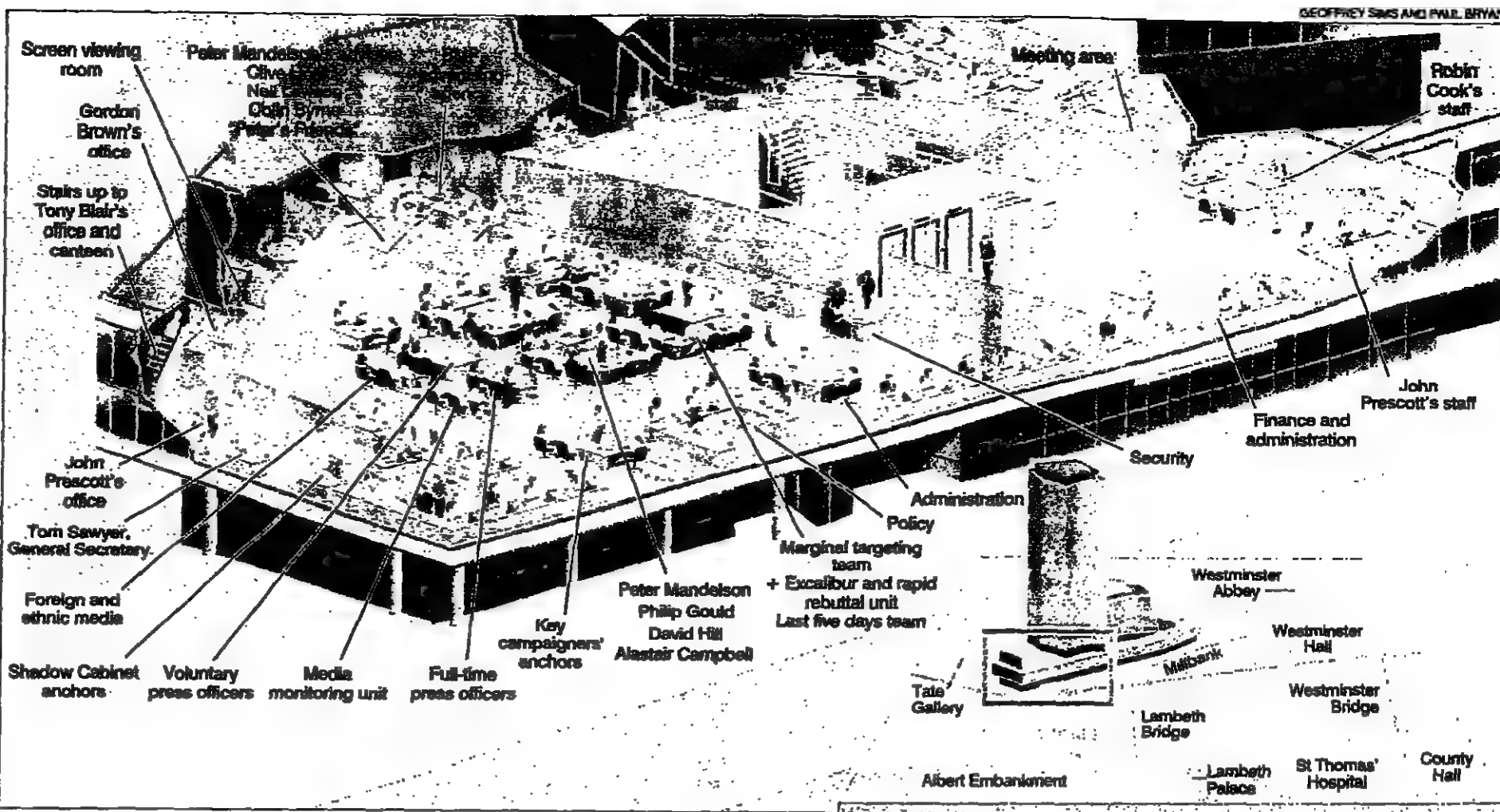
Fiercely loyal to Tony Blair and new Labour, they work 13 hours a day for little reward. Because most of their contracts expire on May 2, they are anxious to secure one of the few full-time jobs likely to

Labour's candidate in the Tory marginal of Exeter leaned across the pub table at lunch, and asked why I thought Conservative Central Office were advising their candidate, Dr Adrian Rogers, to stick to his notoriously anti-homosexual line during this campaign.

I assured him that Central Office would have had no part in it. Candidates organise their own campaigns.

Mr Ben Bradshaw [the Labour candidate] seemed surprised. He had assumed that whatever a parliamentary candidate said or did would be with the approval, or on the instructions, of his party headquarters. It had simply not struck him that other parties might be different.

Matthew Parris



Labour's campaign headquarters at Millbank Tower — the building that never sleeps

computer database of press clippings, speech texts and policy documents, the mainstay of the party's rapid rebuttal system.

Anchorers: mostly Commons researchers who act as the link between Millbank and the "key campaigners", as roving Shadow Cabinet members have been codenamed.

Audience Participation Unit: accused of manipulating radio phone-ins, television debates and newspaper letters columns by getting Labour members to put the party's viewpoint while posing as ordinary voters. Blamed for trying to rig the BBC Radio 4 *Today* Personality of the Year for Mr Blair.

Press officers: "Speed is of the essence," says David Hill, "because we are fighting by far the most sophisticated media election ever. Without that speed we would not be the effective body we are because the news agenda moves so fast."

Technology: during the last election, it was impossible to get a telephone line out of Walworth Road at busy times. Now most candidates have pagers, mobile phones and bedside fax machines. Many have home computers to receive e-mail updates. There are 60 pagers in the war room. Sensitive to accusations of Orwellian control, Mr Hill has told Millbank staff to "downspin" the gadgetry when talking to outsiders.

International and ethnic media: liaises with foreign press, black newspapers such as *The Voice* and Asian broadcasters such as *Zee TV*.

The pointy heads: Gordon

Brown's economics and Shadow Treasury advisers, Charlie Whelan and Ed Balls.

Last Five Days Unit: the apocalyptically named team believed to hold the secrets of the final blitz to bring Labour to power.

Tango Bravo: aka Tony

Blair. Has his office on the second floor, and will move into Millbank permanently after the election when the entire party operation is shifted from John Smith House in Walworth Road in the run-down Elephant and Castle district of south London.

THE DAILY ROUTINE

Millbank is a 24-hour operation.

1am: The uniform "Daily Brief" containing the officially sanctioned issues of the day is fired electronically at every candidate throughout Britain.

1am-5am: A skeleton staff remains throughout the quiet hours of the night, manning the press desk, updating policy and monitoring late broadcasts.

6am: The day swings into life.

7am: Gordon Brown chairs the War Room group to review the morning's press coverage and set the agenda.

8.30am: press conference.

11am: Mr Brown's group meets again to review events.

1pm: Pace quickens as lunchtime news bulletins are monitored, recorded and rebutted.

3pm: Meeting to discuss the medium term.

7pm: War Room group reviews focus groups and private polls.

9pm-11.30pm: Late burst of activity as evening news bulletins are scrutinised and "spun".

that all candidates, especially those fighting the 100 most winnable seats, receive daily direction on their personal campaign as well as help with focusing on the issues that will determine the result their constituency.

The untold story of the 1997 campaign is of how one party is fighting with techniques learned from Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign headquarters while the other has progressed little beyond relying on the helping hand of the local party faithful, more at home organising tea and jam parties.

Conservative Central Office, in Smith Square, would argue that it is as effective as Millbank Tower in fighting a national campaign. From the candidate's point of view there is a stark difference.

A small team in Central Office is in charge of sending national press releases and transcripts of press conferences by fax or e-mail to local constituency associations. Other than that, Conservative candidates are on their own from the start of the election campaign until polling day, fighting a lone war with the help only of their constituency associations.

Labour is secretly proud of its machine, but secret it knows it must be. "You must be the 120th organisation to ask to go onto the first floor," said David Hill, Labour's

Hartlepool cheers its king of spin

By RICHARD FORD

PETER MANDELSON had only been in his Hartlepool campaign headquarters a matter of minutes before he was on his mobile phone, whispering conspiratorially: "Did you hear that package this morning? No it wasn't too bad, I suppose," he muttered. "We will talk later."

First, there were key constituency issues to contend with. Before he can begin, however, the phone rings again. "Damian, how are you?" he asks. "The important thing," he tells the caller, "is strong leadership."

Damian could be forgiven for thinking that Mr Mandelson was giving him a lesson in Labour's strategy for victory. But he was discussing matters of greater significance: the local media now had his views on Hartlepool United football team's strug-



Peter Mandelson: "the brains behind the Labour Party"

gle to avoid relegation. "It is so important," he says. He was in Hartlepool for a seven-hour visit on Saturday after IRA terror attacks forced him to abandon plans to arrive on Friday for a night of canvassing. With a majority of 8,700 in 1992 he could spend even less time in the town. But Labour's national campaign director likes to be

in his constituency at least once a week.

His national stature brings him easy recognition on the streets. "Hello, the famous spin-doctor," a man calls out. "He is the brains behind the Labour Party," another voter declared.

At the Middleton Grange shopping centre voters point and whisper: "There's Mandelson." The more forthcoming call out: "Hello Peter. How are you? You are looking champion."

At an old folks' home, Elsie Atkinson observes: "He's lost a lot of weight. It's all the bloody worry of Hartlepool. He needs food. The last time he came here he went out with fish and chips in the paper."

Mr Mandelson did not overhear her remark. But it was a comment the king of spin would have relished as a sign of his street cred in Hartlepool.

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Disciplined old hand McGahey promises Red Dawn for the Scots



Michael Gove reports on familiar scenes as the Scottish TUC celebrates its centenary in Glasgow among old friends and new comrades

THERE can seldom have been clearer evidence of the control that old party hands are capable of than the speech to the Scottish TUC's centenary congress given yesterday by Mick McGahey.

A lifetime in the Communist Party teaches you many things, but above all it inculcates discipline. This was a study in socialist self-control of which Vladimir Ilyich would have been proud.

Mr McGahey, a former leader of Scotland's miners and a lifelong Communist, enjoys a distinguished but cramped position in the trade union movement, just to the left of Arthur Scargill.

For new Labour strategists still reeling from a firemen's strike in Essex it would have been hard to conceive of a less attractive photo-opportunity than Mr McGahey addressing hundreds of eccentrics, barbed and extravagantly tattooed shop stewards promising Red Dawn on May 2.

They need not have worried in Millbank Tower. Certainly, Mr McGahey tantalised an audience whose every instinct is old Labour. He attacked the "hysteria of certain forces" which had sought to place the

STUC in an unflattering light. The brothers were not sure for a second whether it was Ian Lang's or David Blunkett's disabbling comments that had provoked the reaction. Mr McGahey also promised, to tumultuous applause, to "defend the welfare state" beginning the question who would be doing the attacking.

But, after the glimpses of the cloven hoof behind the lectern, Mr McGahey went back to his message. A side swipe at the sleazy Tories — nothing but "political troglodytes" — was followed by a line that will have brought Peter Mandelson to his feet applauding along with the pony-tailed activists. Mr McGahey, with a hint of a smile, exclaimed: "They say we are looking for a pay-off. Well, I'll settle for no favours but fairness."

They say the devil can quote Scripture for his own purposes, but it still gives pause for thought when Scotland's greatest living Marxist approvingly appropriates a Blairite soundbite.

Mr McGahey, determined to do nothing to imperil a Labour victory, had showed the sort of discipline that made the Communist Party the vanguard of struggle on Scotland's shop floors. A moderate demeanour is the radical's best weapon.

The former miners' leader's performance is far from the only evidence of the STUC's radical roots at this congress. The stalls seemed to have been designed by a Saatchi's set designer. From Unity Books, "Scotland's left and progressive bookshop" primarily displaying Engels' *Condition of the English Working Class*, to those offering Che T-shirts, miners' lamps and heroic accounts of the struggle in Cuba, there could not have been a more effective reminder of old Labour's loves.

At one stall, two women



The struggle old and new: Mick McGahey preaching to the Scottish TUC yesterday, left, and addressing its southern sister in Brighton in 1984



Unrepentant Bickerstaffe insists on setting rate for a minimum wage

Philip Bassett reports on Unison's discord with softer Labour line

discussed their proposed visit to Havana with "Pastors for Peace". In the bar an old hand remarked at the mention of new Labour: "Oh no, I'm not interested in politics any more, that's why I am in new Labour." In the conference hall motions opposing Labour's newest policy, privatisation, attracted enthusiastic support.

The STUC's own anniversary video is in the same deep red vein. It makes altogether more ambitious claims for the union movement than its sister organisation down South ever would. While the TUC is content to concentrate on workplace rights, the video celebrates the STUC's role in international struggle, feminist struggle and the struggle for a Scottish parliament.

One of the contributors praises the STUC as a "big battalion" on the side of progress. But, as big battalions go, their allegiance is still Red Army rather than New Model.

BRITAIN'S biggest union will today risk provoking Labour anger and fresh Conservative attacks on trade unionism by setting a level for a national minimum wage. The call at the Scottish Trades Union Congress by Rodney Bickerstaffe, of the public services union Unison, will be the first time in the election campaign that a major trade union has spoken out.

Unison, Labour's largest affiliated union, has decided to promote its long-standing policy of a minimum wage set at 50 per cent of male median earnings, even though they know Conservative strategists will exploit it. Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, attacked the congress proposals, including the minimum wage, as a "litany of left-wing demands which, if agreed to, would ruin Britain".

Calling on Gordon Brown, Robin

Cook and Donald Dewar to return money to their sponsoring unions if they disagreed with policies adopted by the congress, he said that it was "clear beyond doubt that the trade unions today are as dangerous as they ever were". Mr Lang added: "The Labour Party and the unions are joined at the hip."

Labour says that it will not set a precise figure for a minimum wage in advance of the election, and will decide on it only after taking advice from employers' and employees' representatives on a new Low Pay Commission. Labour leaders have said any decisions taken by the congress in Glasgow which ran counter to the party's policies would be ignored.

David Blunkett, Shadow Employment and Education Secretary, said that the congress should abandon hopes of influencing a Labour government unless

its policies "totally matched" those of Labour. Campbell Christie, the congress general secretary, said yesterday as his conference began that it "obviously regrets any potential government minister indicating that they are not prepared to listen to various points of view before forming policy decisions". John Monks, the TUC leader, made clear that it will continue to push for key union claims, including rights for part-time workers.

Conservatives will also seize on a strong reception at the Glasgow congress yesterday for Ken Cameron, the Fire Brigades Union leader, ahead of a planned second strike today by firefighters in Essex. Mr Cameron urged fresh talks to end the dispute and called on a new Labour government to start building a new way of handling the public sector after May 1.

Sinn Fein 'pledged to peace'

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, looked forward yesterday to the election of a new government to help to reconstruct the Northern Ireland peace process. He said that the new government should face up to Sinn Fein, each on its own terms, and put behind it the failures of the past.

Mr Adams, speaking at the party's annual conference, said: "A lasting peace is the prize. The Westminster elections on May 1 are a watershed moment in our history that must be seized. We must send a clear message to the new London government."

"Today I pledge Sinn Fein's commitment to peace and to negotiations and to agreement."

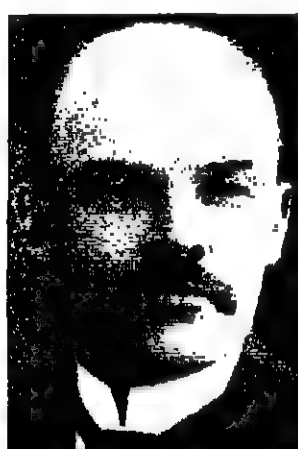
Self confessed

Writer Will Self, sacked by *The Observer* last week, admitted he did snort heroin aboard John Major's campaign jet. He told the *Independent* on Sunday: "So I was snatched out on the Prime Minister's jet — big deal." He insisted he did not behave oddly, and had filed 1,500 words for *The Observer* on time.

ELECTION TRAIL

Conservative: Kenneth Baker, Peter Lilley in South, Stephen Dorrell in North West, Gillian Shephard in North, Lord Archer in North East, Michael Portillo in West, Michael Howard in London, Labour: Margaret Beckett in Wales, Donald Dewar in Scotland, Frank Dobson in North East, Clare Short, Michael Meacher in North West, Harriet Harman in Midlands, Chris Smith in North, Jack Straw in the East, Lib Dems: Paddy Ashdown in Cornwall, Shirley Williams in South East, Lord Rodgers in East.

On screen: BBC 1 Paddy Ashdown interview, *Panorama* 8.30pm. BBC2 Kenneth Clarke interviewed live on *Newsnight*, 10.30pm.



Lenin: Vladimir Ilyich would have been proud

Major promises parents power to create more grammar schools

JOHN MAJOR will today present his proposals to create a grammar school in every town by allowing parents to petition governors to make their schools fully selective (Jill Sherman writes).

The Prime Minister will also announce plans to let school boards of governors appeal directly to the Secretary of State for grammar-school status, rather than having to apply via the local education authority as they do now.

Mr Major hopes that the fast track to the education secretary would encourage for more schools to consider opting for full selection. The Tories see selection as a vote-winner and it will also give them an opportunity to repeat the charge of "hypocrisy" against Shadow Education Secretary Harriet Harman for choosing a selective school for her children.

Parents could initiate the application for the new status

THE TORY CAMPAIGN

by petitioning the board of governors, but just a small group could trigger this request. Once a school has asked to be fully selective, the governors would have to show "a broad consensus of support" from parents.

But sources said there would be no requirement for a formal ballot of the parents or for evidence that more than 50 per cent of the parents supported the move. "Of course if there is a huge body of opposition the Secretary of State probably would not grant the application."

Mr Major and Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, will also confirm that if the Conservatives win a fifth term, this would allow them to renew their policy to permit grant-maintained schools to select 50 per cent of their pupils, specialist schools to select

30 per cent and other schools to select up to 20 per cent. This push for increased selection had to be dropped from the Education Bill last month after Labour and Liberal Democrat opposition.

But some Tory radicals are known to be disappointed that the Government is proposing no incentives for schools to become selective, like those which encouraged schools to opt out of local authority control. They fear that without a cash boost the dream of a grammar school in every town will come to nothing.

Tory manifesto plans would make all schools independent legal entities with charitable status and control over their own admissions policies. That would give them power to submit plans for 100 per cent selection without reference to their education authority. The new mechanisms mir-

ror those in place for schools seeking grant-maintained status — encouraged to do so and offered support and information by the government-funded Grant Maintained Schools Trust. The proposals envisage a new publicly funded Grammar Schools Trust to serve the same function.

No targets have been set. But Tory strategists believe that a tenth of secondary schools — that is 400 — could become grammar schools.

Mr Major is expected to reject the charge of bringing back the old 11-plus. Diversity in schools, he is expected to say, means that there need be no universal exam to fit children at 11 into a two-tier education system.

Instead, each school would be free to develop its own selection process — not just an exam, but records of achievement, interviews and a child's performance in National Curriculum tests.

Eurosceptic tycoon takes his campaign to unions

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

MORE than 80 per cent of Conservative candidates in seats currently held by the party have taken up the financial inducement offered by a Yorkshire businessman to come out against the single currency in their election addresses, it emerged yesterday.

Paul Sykes, the multi-millionaire who sparked the revolt against John Major's options-open policy, will step up his one-man crusade this week by taking his campaign to trade unions and small business.

He has spent more than £500,000 and is prepared to sink well over £1 million into his battle. Mr Sykes said yesterday that some 230 candidates in Tory-held seats had taken up his offer and were receiving sums of up to £3,000 to help their re-election campaign. With ministers obviously debarred from availing themselves of the offer, it

appears that only about 25 candidates in seats currently held by the Conservatives have not said they are against the single currency.

Now the 53-year-old businessman, who owns 40 per cent of the giant Meadowhall shopping centre near Sheffield, has decided to employ the services of a leading polling organisation to gauge true feelings about the single currency in unions and among the workers in small firms. He intends to take out advertisements in the national newspapers from next weekend to publish the results.

He is convinced that just as his campaign at the Tory grassroots has shown the extent of Conservative opposition to the single currency, the polling exercise will show the worries of British workers about abolishing the pound.

He said: "I am doing this to help the Conservative Party

get re-elected. I have received overwhelming response to my offer of campaign funds and the true position of the Conservative Party has emerged. That feeling is more widespread than anyone knows. The single currency will be so inflexible for this country — we must keep our power to vary interest rates."



Sykes: funding for election campaigns

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Indian coalition picks 'principled' Prime Minister

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

AFTER three weeks of political turmoil, India yesterday named its new Prime Minister to lead a shaky coalition government and avoid its second general election in a year.

Inder Kumar Gujral, 77, the External Affairs Minister, who is rare in boasting almost no political enemies, was chosen by the leaders of a dozen parties, the United Front, on Saturday night to stake a claim to form a new administration. He will be the seventh Prime Minister in eight years — a measure of the political instability since the demise of the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty.

President Sharma decided last night that his bid was viable and announced that Mr Gujral would be sworn in this morning. The last Government, led by H. D. Deve Gowda, was toppled in a confidence vote in parliament after the Congress Party withdrew support. It will now return to the fold, probably as a parliamentary ally rather than as a member of the new administration.

Mr Gujral's victory will be welcomed throughout the diplomatic community, where he is respected for putting relations with neighbouring countries on a sounder footing. He has declared it a "mission" to see normal relations with Pakistan in his lifetime, and in his ten months as foreign minister he has made exceptional overtures to ease cross-border tensions. He is fluent in Urdu and was born in Jhelum, in what is now Pakistan. He has made nostalgic visits to his childhood home there and has published books in Urdu; his latest, a collection of his speeches, is on sale in Pakistan — a rare tribute to an Indian politician. His international standing — he has twice



Gujral celebrating in Delhi yesterday

been foreign minister — will enhance India's standing in the world.

Mr Gujral, whose closest friends are drawn from the literary and intellectual world rather than politics, was the compromise choice to satisfy all the United Front parties. He is known to be principled and, another rarity in Indian politics, honest. Almost no senior figure in Indian politics can boast such a reputation for incorruptibility.

"I want to give a clean

government that serves and attends to the basic problems of India — poverty, backwardness and social justice," he said. "If we do not have confidence in ourselves, nobody else is going to help us."

Mr Gujral is a former Ambassador to Moscow. He was sent there as a punishment for defying Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, in a dispute over censorship of Doordarshan, the state-run television network.

He will find it difficult to hold the United Front together: federal coalition government in India, first tried in 1967, has generally been a disaster, and few analysts give his administration much chance of surviving the next four years.

The growth of regional groups and the decline of the Congress Party means all future governments are likely to be coalitions. The United Front fractured over the weekend, although not fatally, when the Tamil Maanila Congress, from the southern state of Tamil Nadu, announced its withdrawal, leaving Mr Gujral without the men he expected to serve as Finance Minister and Labour Minister.

Siarum Kesri, president of the Congress Party, who brought down the outgoing Government because of a personal feud with Mr Deve Gowda, said he would back Mr Gujral.

The incoming Prime Minister started political life as a Communist leader in pre-partition India. At the age of 23 Mr Gujral was jailed for taking part in the independence movement. He does not have a political base. He is a member of the indirectly elected Rajya Sabha (upper house), a senate institution compared with the more important Lok Sabha (lower house).

Kashmiris deny stealing funds

Delhi: Three top Kashmiri separatist leaders have been accused of siphoning off millions of dollars in foreign donations earmarked for rebuilding the strife-torn state, the Press Trust of India said yesterday. The leaders of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference, a forum of about two dozen political and Muslim separatist organisations, denied the accusation by the Central Bureau of Investigation. (AFP)



Thousands watch the unveiling of a copy of the 2nd-century statue of Emperor Marcus Aurelius at the Piazza del Campidoglio in Rome as part of the city's 2,750th anniversary. The original is in the nearby Capitoline Museum

Return of emperor clothed in bronze

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

TO A backdrop of music and fireworks, one of Rome's best loved symbols, the bronze statue of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius astride his horse, returned to its rightful place on Capitol Hill at the weekend after an absence of 16 years.

But some of the thousands of Romans and tourists at Michelangelo's Piazza del Campidoglio to see the Emperor unveiled expressed disappointment that the statue is an immaculate, painstakingly reproduced copy. The 2nd-century original is a few steps away, behind glass at the Capitoline Museum — its bronze, and some remaining gold, gleaming through a green oxidised coating.

Marcus Aurelius (AD 121-180) is remembered as an unusually humane and thoughtful Roman ruler. His return coincides with Rome's official 2,750th birthday, and is part of a plan to spruce up the city's ancient monuments for the millennium.

Officials said the original, removed in 1981 because of damage from pollution, might be put back if Rome's high impurity levels were reduced. The statue stood for centuries outside the Lateran Palace, and was covered in gold. According to local legend, the re-appearance of the gold coating will signal the end of the world, with the Emperor's horse announcing the Last Judgment.

Work on the dully-gleaming bronze reproduction was started by students from the Scuola dell'Arte della Medaglia, who because the original was too fragile for a cast to be taken, made plaster moulds from computerised photographs. Foundrymen from the State Mint then made the statue from a bronze alloy as close as possible to the 2nd-century mixture of copper and tin.



Mr Hwang, left, and his associate, Kim Duk Hong, arrive to a red-carpet welcome in Seoul yesterday

Korean defector says he tried to avert war

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

THE North Korean defector, Hwang Jang Yop, said yesterday that he fled to try to prevent a war breaking out between the two sides on the divided peninsula.

Arriving in Seoul via the Philippines after he and an aide walked into the South Korean embassy in Beijing to seek asylum on February 12, he painted a grim picture of a feudal dictatorship close to collapse and reduced to begging as it struggled to survive a crippling famine. In a play to save North Korea's face, Mr Hwang was flown to the Philippines on March 18.

"The North Korean economy is almost paralysed. People are suffering from starvation and the Government has no choice but to beg

from international agencies," Mr Hwang said after landing amid tight security.

Mr Hwang, 74, the most senior Pyongyang official to seek political asylum in the South, raised his arms in triumph as he emerged from the chartered aircraft to read a statement, which was broadcast live on television.

"I came to South Korea because I am convinced the only way out is to prevent war by joining hands with our brothers in the South," he said, in a voice betraying emotion.

South Korea has agreed to allow the United States to interview Mr Hwang. William Cohen, the American Defence Secretary, said last night.

Beijing's advance guard arrives for Hong Kong change

FROM CATHERINE FIELD IN HONG KONG

FORTY men, handpicked for their faith in the Communist Party, today become the first Chinese mainland military unit to set foot in Hong Kong for more than 150 years.

The mainlanders are an advance party of the People's Liberation Army, which will take over from the British armed forces when the Union Flag is lowered over Hong Kong at midnight on June 30.

The challenge of history lies before them, but there is a more pressing dilemma: how will they get over the shock of living with the Ladies from Hell? For the next few months, they will live side-by-side with the 1st Regiment the Black Watch — the battle-honoured force whose kills and fighting spirit earned them the sobriquet from German troops in the First World War.

"They will be attending briefings and will be having meetings with the garrison and government departments, and also visiting other sites," said Major John Herring, the spokesman for the British garrison. "Precise details of the liaison are still to be confirmed; there's no precedent for this."

The Chinese soldiers' first taste of British garrison life will be two killed and tattooed Black Watch soldiers standing guard outside the Prince of Wales barracks. Once inside,

they will be led past portraits of the Queen and the Queen Mother and regimental paintings of battle scenes from the world wars. The British have laid out four cooking woks, Chinese signs, and a Mandarin-speaking officer.

A liaison group of 28, led by the Deputy Commander, will be with the British forces in Blake Barracks at the Prince of Wales Barracks. The other 12 will be located with the British garrison at the Stonecutters Island Barracks.

The Chinese forces have undergone strict training. They are all tall, disciplined, well-educated and mostly English-speaking, and like nothing better than singing "I love you, Hong Kong" at karaoke parties. Chinese officials said. Their senior officers will earn less than £350 a month.

Meanwhile, at least 3,000 Chinese frontier police have carried out a land and sea sweep to attempt to halt a flood of illegal immigrants who are crossing the border into Hong Kong. Rumours have spread of an amnesty for mainland immigrants after independence.

□ Taipei: The second of two ships which became the first to sail directly to Taiwan from China in 48 years arrived yesterday in the southern Kaohsiung harbour. (Reuters)

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If time is life's most precious commodity... Who's controlling it?

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Netanyahu escapes charges but fights for political life

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ALTHOUGH a legal report rejected for lack of evidence a police recommendation that fraud and breach of trust charges be brought against him, Benjamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister, last night launched a fight for his political survival.

Publication of the report plunged Israel into a new stage of a crisis that will not be resolved until junior coalition partners have met to decide if they will continue to back his Government, which has 66 seats in the 120-member Knesset.

In spite of the short breathing space given to Mr Netanyahu by the report, presented by Elyakim Rubinstein, the Attorney-General, and Edna Arbel, the State Attorney, commentators believe the political crisis is far from over.

According to the report, which took six days to prepare and was rushed out in advance of the Passover holiday starting today, the top law officers have ruled that, subject to his immunity as a member of the Knesset being lifted, charges of fraud, obstruction of justice and extortion should be brought against Aryeh Deri, leader of the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party,

which controls ten of the coalition's seats. Leading members of the party have already threatened a "political earthquake" if Mr Deri is charged.

At a tense news conference, Mr Rubinstein said no decision had yet been made about police recommendations that charges of breach of trust be brought against Avigdor Lieberman, the director-general of the Prime Minister's office and one of Mr Netanyahu's closest confidantes.

The report ruled that the police recommendation of charges against Tzachi Hanegbi, the Justice Minister, should not be acted on, also because of lack of evidence. The Attorney-General said there were "grounds for bewilderment" about Mr Netanyahu's part in the appointment of Roni Bar-On, a Jerusalem criminal lawyer, as Attorney-General.

The scandal began in January when Israeli television claimed that his short-lived appointment — he resigned within hours — had been made because of a deal where, by Mr Deri, already facing corruption charges elsewhere, would be granted a plea bargain by Mr Bar-On. In exchange he was alleged to have offered to persuade his

ministers to back the deal to pull troops out of Hebron.

Shortly before the report's publication, Yehuda Harel, chairman of the Third Way, which commands four Knesset seats, said: "Even if no one is charged, should it become clear that very serious things were done from a public and democratic standpoint, we will not be able to go on backing the Government and will want early elections."

Last night it emerged that Nathan Sharansky, whose party has seven seats, could emerge as either king-maker or king-breaker. Earlier he said his new party would quit if only "10 per cent" of the original TV allegations of sleaze were true, but it was unclear last night whether he stood by this pledge. He is a personal friend of Mr Netanyahu and has recently had intensive private talks with him.

With the main left-wing opposition Labour Party under Shimon Peres pressing hard for a new general election, Mr Netanyahu yesterday held a series of meetings with coalition partners and with Likud ministers, unhappy with the moral aspects of the report, in a determined attempt to persuade them against standing down.

Treasures of the tsar rekindle Cold War

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

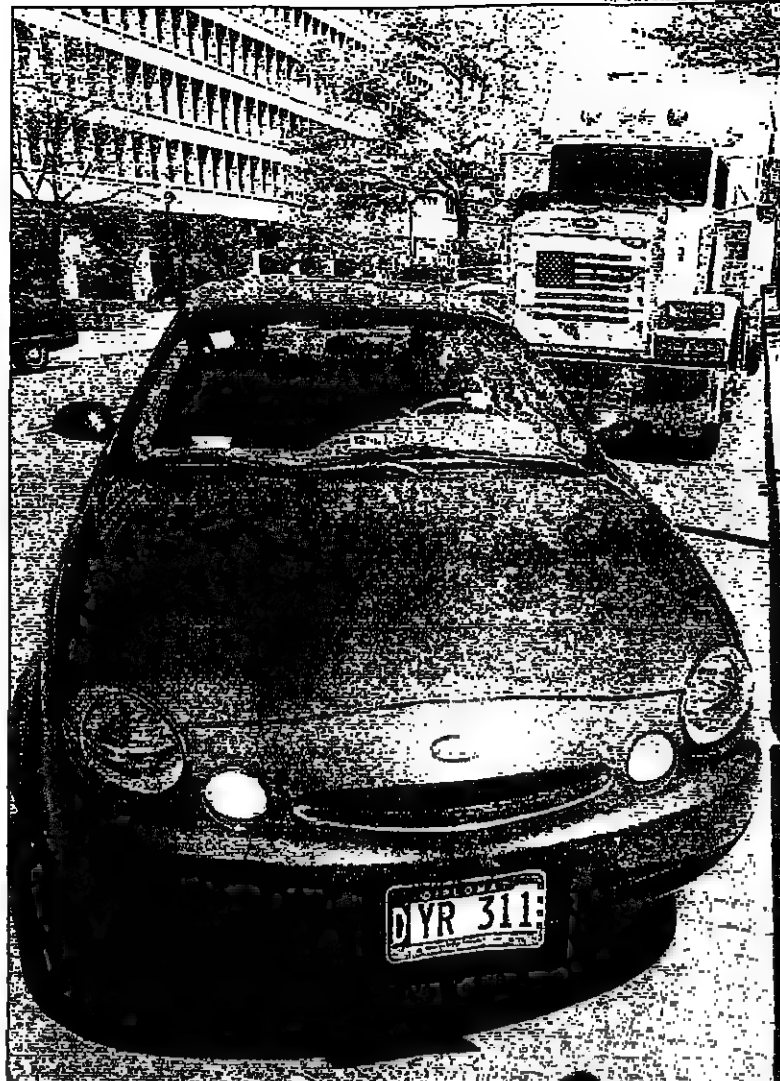
IN WHAT might be called a cultural cold war, treasures of the tsars were yesterday stuck for a fifth day in a removal van being blockaded by Russian Embassy cars on a Washington street.

The Russians say the dispute is over where next to show the treasures, valued at \$100 million (£61.5 million). The Americans say it is about money.

A dazzling array of more than 115 imperial jewels, including an egg-sized stone known as Caesar's Ruby, a 250-carat sapphire and one of the world's largest cut diamonds, was locked in the vaults of the Corcoran Gallery at the end of a ten-week exhibition that drew 80,000 visitors.

Some exhibits — gowns worn by Catherine the Great, plus two dozen boxes of icons, artefacts and portraits from the Romanov court — were already loaded into the removal van outside, just down the street from the White House. It cannot move, because cars parked fore and aft and manned around the clock by Russian diplomats have it boxed in.

The exhibition was arranged by the American Russian Cultural Co-operation Foundation, a Washington non-profit group, in collaboration with the Russian Organising Committee, an off-



A Russian Embassy car hemming in a removal truck in New York to stop it leaving with part of an exhibition of tsarist treasures, including a bracelet containing a flat diamond, top, and diamond and sapphire earrings

shoot of the Russian Ministry of Culture.

Last week, the Russians sprang a surprise. They wanted their treasures back at once, instead of them going as planned to Houston and then

on a two-year American tour. They were needed to mark Moscow's 850th anniversary, they said, adding that the cultural foundation had broken a promise to sign a contract giving them more say

over the exhibition, its security and its travels.

On the contrary, said James Symington, chairman of the foundation, the Americans already had a contract giving them control. Peter Marzio,

director of the Houston museum, where the treasures are due next, added a rider. Every time he asked the Russians what they wanted, he said, "they start slipping into money".



Arbel: has won praise for tough approach

Sleaze inquiry tests iron will of woman prosecutor

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE future of Israel's right-wing Government has resided in the hands of Edna Arbel, described by *The Jerusalem Report* magazine as the most powerful woman in Israel.

Aged 53 and the mother of three daughters, Mrs Arbel was responsible, with Elyakim Rubinstein, the Attorney-General, for the report published last night on which the fate of Benjamin Netanyahu's Government may depend. His administration has been rocked by the scandal surround-

ing the short-lived appointment of a previous Attorney-General, Roni Bar-On, an obscure Jerusalem criminal lawyer.

As Israel's State Attorney, or chief prosecutor, Mrs Arbel is having her legendary toughness put to the test in the worst sleaze scandal to hit a state that has seen its fair share. Since last week's deliberate leak of police recommendations calling for the prosecution of the Prime Minister on fraud and breach of trust charges, she has come under pressure that many in the legal world would have found impossible to

resist. Writing shortly before the report was made public, Peter Hirschberg, a journalist, concluded: "If she decides not to prosecute, she knows she might well be allowing the establishment of weak political norms. If she does press charges — especially in a case where the law is unclear — she knows her office will be up against the country's finest private lawyers and that at stake is nothing less than the public's faith in the legal system. Acquittals could make future prosecution of public figures much more difficult."

Even before publication of a decision

she termed "hard and certainly not simple", Mrs Arbel — born in Haifa when it was part of British-mandated Palestine — had shown her legal mettle in a style that has convinced many she was the right person for a job she took on reluctantly 14 months ago.

Last November she indicted the Justice Minister, Yacov Neeman, for giving false testimony to the Supreme Court. Two months earlier she had brought charges against Ehud Olmert, the high-profile right-wing Mayor of Jerusalem, for his alleged role in a late 1980s Likud party funding scandal.

Zaire rebels threaten to open fresh front

BY SAM KILEY AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

ZAIRE'S advancing rebels claim to have boosted their forces with 100,000 recruits and are threatening to open a western front to increase pressure on Kinshasa, the capital, and force President Mobutu to step down.

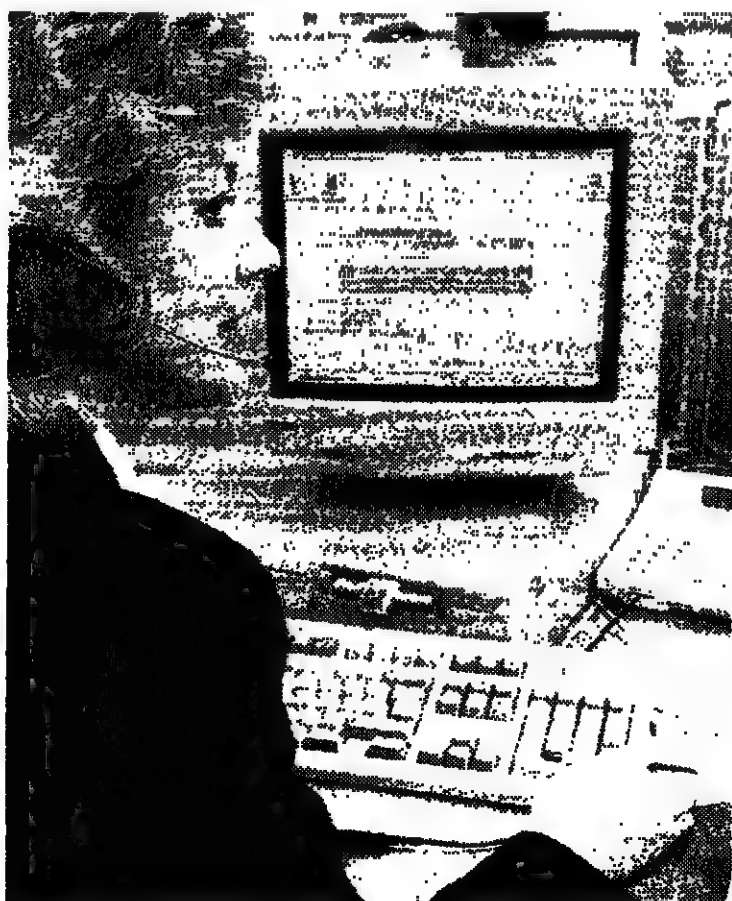
Laurent Kabila, the leader of the Alliance of Democratic

Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, told a rally of 10,000 supporters in Lubumbashi on Saturday that the capture of Kinshasa "won't take long ... we'll be in Kinshasa very soon. We're only 200 kilometres (120 miles) away".

He said that in Bas-Zaïre, the most western province, "100,000 young men have joined our cause".

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PERSONAL CHOICE 7.24% Variable (7.5% Typical APR)	100% MORTGAGE 7.24% Variable (7.5% Typical APR)	100% MORTGAGE 7.24% Variable (7.5% Typical APR)
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• No redemption penalty	• No Mortgage Indemnity	• No redemption penalty
• Pay more	• Valuation Fee refunded when funds sent to Solicitors	• Higher Loan to Value Access Fee added to loan
• Pay less or stop paying within a pre-set limit	• No redemption penalty	• Solicitors and Valuation Fee can be added
• Capital raise up to £50,000	• Capital raise up to £50,000	
• Pay over 10 rather than 12 months	• Cheque book facility available to draw funds when required	
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Scientists who can never forget a face

Anjana Ahuja on how our unique looks can be quantified

With only a few strokes of a pen, a caricaturist is able to sketch a human likeness. Among thousands of heads at a pop concert, we are able to discern friends from strangers.

Without knowing it, both artist and concertgoer are analysing "ridge curves". These are regions on the face showing extreme curvature — the contours of the nose, the rise of the cheeks and the curl of the chin. These distinctive curves, and their proportions to each other, are used intuitively by the brain to match them to individuals.

Now, in a collaborative project funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, statisticians at Leeds University and medical physicists at University College, London, are putting numbers to these curves, in an attempt to find a way to map the human face.

The research, led by Professor Kanti Mardia and Professor John Kent at Leeds, and Dr Alf Linney at University College, has two major applications. First, the face maps are being used by plastic surgeons to reconstruct faces, and to measure the effectiveness of treatments for facial deformities. Second, transforming a face into a series of numbers is equivalent to giving it a digital signature, which could soon be employed in the identification of criminals.

The researchers are seeking a mathematical method of encoding faces that is both quick and simple, and reliable enough to be accepted in courts of law.

An example of a facial deformity is hemifacial microsomia, where one side of the face develops faster than the other. The face gradually begins to look lopsided, especially the chin. This unevenness can appear from the age of five.

There are conflicting views about the best way of correcting this distressing congenital condition, which affects three out of a thousand people. Some doctors administer drugs to accelerate growth on the slow side. Others advocate surgery. Another method is to use appliances to train the face to grow in a certain way.

There was no quantitative evaluation of which method was working," Dr Linney



Digital technology can record distinctive facial curves so that doctors can help patients to recover their looks

says: "It was like trying to measure something without a ruler. Now, we can use the face maps to track the long-term effect of the treatments."

The maps are produced by scanning the patient's face with a laser, which produces tens of thousands of numbers, or co-ordinates. The co-ordinates are grouped into small clusters, and smoothed by taking statistical averages of the numbers in each portion. Then the average curve-

ture of each part of the face can be calculated. By repeating this before and after surgery, any differences in face shape can be recorded.

The maps have also been used to plan plastic surgery. For example, with hemifacial microsomia patients, a surgeon can use a map of the "normal side" to help to restore symmetry, removing the trial-and-error factor. The charts have also helped surgeons to perform operations previously regarded as too risky. The unpredictability arises because soft tissues move around after surgery, and, for younger patients, operations might affect how the face will grow and develop. Now the surgery can be simulated on a computer first.

However, it is in the field of identification that perhaps the most fascinating research is going on. Most people possess powerful abilities of recognition and discrimination. For example, we are easily able to distinguish male faces from female ones, but exactly what constitutes masculinity or femininity is largely unknown.

The problem is, these abilities are not infallible. Who has not suffered the embarrassment of waving to someone across a street, only to discover that they have been waving to a stranger? Worse, there is a greater chance of misidentification in stressful situations, such as hold-ups or assaults.

Consequently, eyewitness accounts are increasingly dismissed as unreliable.

In response to this, courts are relying more and more on evidence from video cameras. But video surveillance has its

drawbacks such as poor clarity. This is where scientists can help. Dr Linney says: "If we want to identify a face linked to a crime, what features do we need?"

The researchers have joined the Police Foundation, and Forensic Technology, a Scottish company, to try to establish a formula that can allow a face to be identified. They are making progress and recently published a paper in the *Journal of Applied Statistics*, outlining the problems associated with a "facial fingerprint" system. They took photographs of 360 white males, and looked at 11 different measurements of facial features. The idea was to discover measurements with the widest variation in the general population.

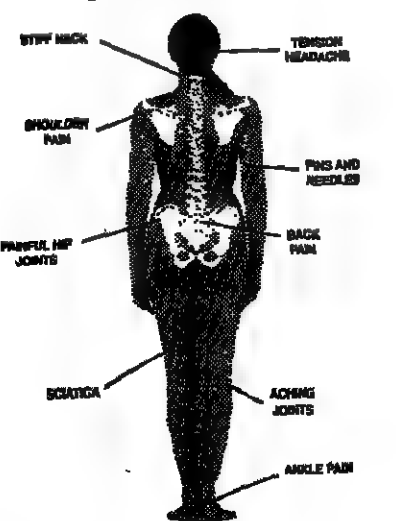
Professor Mardia says: "A pattern of landmarks, with points representing the eyes, nostrils, ears and mouth corners, is another method of differentiating between people. But more research is needed to uncover precisely which of the components of a face are unique to individuals."

Initially, the researchers are aiming for a measurement system which gives no more than four matches for every thousand faces. They are aware that their eventual technique must be virtually foolproof. Just one doubt is enough to wreck a court case, which is why the statistical work by Leeds is so crucial. "It's no different from the controversy that surrounded DNA testing when it was first introduced," Dr Linney says. "This has got to stand up in court." They hope to solve the problem within two years.

'Maps are made by scanning the head with a laser'

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Roots of disease



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

MANY people take their teeth for granted, neglecting regular dental appointments. Perhaps they should think again. Evidence is mounting that diseases of the mouth can greatly increase the risk of deadlier afflictions, such as heart disease.

In America, Professor Robert Genovese of the University of Buffalo in New York State, reports that in a population of native Americans in Arizona, gum disease was a stronger predictor of future heart disease than any of the conventional risk factors such as high blood pressure, high levels of cholesterol, age or gender.

"We have always suspected that periodontal disease was a true risk factor for cardiovascular disease, but our studies have been confounded by the presence of smoking," Professor Genovese says. "Smoking is rare in this community of Pima Indians, so it was not a factor. We found a powerful association between the existence of periodontal disease at the beginning of the study and the development of cardiovascular disease in the succeeding ten years."

Dr Harvath Shah, of Eastman Dental Institute at the University of London, finds these results interesting. "Earlier studies have shown that women with gum disease tend to have underweight babies," he says. Last year he organised a conference at the institute on the contributions that infections of the mouth may have to general health.

At the conference, Dr Sydney Finegold, of the University of California at Los Angeles, said that many infections may involve

bacteria that originate in the mouth, including pneumonia, brain abscess, meningitis and bowel diseases. Some dentists claim that the dangers are greater in people who have had root canal surgery. This involves removing the main nerve in the tooth and filling the space, but many tiny nerve "tubules" remain and may act as a reservoir of infection.

Dr Shah says he was sceptical initially, but now thinks the theory has to be taken seriously. Although the immune system cannot get rid of bacteria living in the root canal, healthy people can prevent them invading the rest of the body, but the elderly or those with lowered immune function may not be able to do so.

"A few years ago it would not have been possible to demonstrate any link between infections in the mouth and in the rest of the body. But with the advent of DNA fingerprinting techniques it is now possible to follow the movement of a single infective agent throughout the body," he says.

Professor Genovese blames bacteria for the link between gum and heart disease in the Pima Indians. "They enter the bloodstream via small ulcers in the gum tissue," he says. "These bacteria cause platelets in the blood to aggregate and form clumps. These clumps accumulate on damaged tissue, such as lesions in the blood vessel or a heart valve replacement. The accumulated clumps can block a blood vessel. There are many reasons to treat gum disease. This is a very good one."

Warblers now have a supper to sing for



THE Seychelles warbler was once the most endangered species on Earth, with a bare 30 left on the island of Cousin. Conservation efforts paid off, however, and by 1992 the numbers were up to 320 — scarcely countable, but a great improvement. The trouble was that the birds were reproducing very slowly, at an average of only 0.3 chicks per breeding pair per year.

Dutch researchers from the University of Groningen suspected that the cause was genetic impoverishment. The species had been so nearly wiped out that its genetic base was narrow, and inbreeding had caused a loss of fertility. To test this, they studied a group of 29 birds which had been released in 1988 on the neighbouring island of Aridide.

They found the birds to be flourishing. In spite of inbreeding, they are vigorous little birds that raise chicks in plenty throughout the year. The conclusion is that genetic impoverishment had nothing to do with the problem, which was caused entirely by a scarcity of food on Cousin. Given a decent diet, the birds warble with the best of them.

Children's prints just drift away



WHEN children commit crimes, they are much less likely to leave behind incriminating fingerprints, according to an American chemist. The reason, says Dr Michelle Buchanan, of the US National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is that children's fingerprints evaporate quickly from warm surfaces because they contain many volatile fatty acids.

After puberty, the glands in the skin begin to secrete heavier, less volatile alkyl esters that linger longer. Dr Buchanan was called in after police failed to find the fingerprints of a kidnapped three-year-old despite accounts by witnesses that placed her in the house they had searched.

Her study, presented last week at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society, showed that fingerprint tests reveal far more than whorls and ridges. They also reveal cholesterol, nicotine and hormone levels. "Maybe down the road police will be able to say 'this print was made by a male who smokes and has high cholesterol'," says Stephen Jarboe, a team member.

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Hitched: Patsy Kensit and Liam Gallagher

Marriage: why it's hip to get hitched

Suddenly, it's no longer cool to co-habit. Commitment is the real rebellion. Opposite, Joe Joseph investigates the marriage phenomenon, while below Barry Turner and Tania Kindersley describe their own experience



Hitched: Rebecca Miller and Daniel Day-Lewis

We're saying thanks for the wonderful years

MARRIAGE AT 60

Don't do it," said the lady novelist when I let slip that I was planning to marry for the third time. It was one of those suffocatingly crowded parties where nose-to-nose conversations make for uninvited intimacies.

"Why ever not?" "Well, for one thing," she said, "you're too old."

Too old? At 60? Come on. I am known to turn in a good day's work. I can still get across the road without help. As for sex, I defer to Groucho Marx. Marrying a girl a third his age, it was suggested that sex might be dangerous.

"Well," said Groucho, "if she dies, she dies."

Not that our age difference is that great. It can be a bit unnerving when I reflect that Mary was born the year I started my military service. But she has now topped 40, a woman of independent mind and successful career. It can hardly be said that I am leading her astray.

And, I love her, dammit. There, I've said it. The cloak of English reserve having been cast aside, I can now reveal that we have lived together for some time. We know each other's little habits and tolerate them, even if I do scream silently when I am told to turn left when she really means straight on. And I have been known to utter abuse when, for the umpteenth time, I have fallen over a pair of shoes left carelessly in the middle of the bedroom floor.

Of my own irritating characteristics, or at least those I am prepared to recognise, a slight deafness can lead to harsh words. The latest confusion was when Mary told me

that Shropshire was too far, which puzzled me because I had no immediate intention of going to Shropshire. In fact she had said, or said she had said, that the shopping was in the car. But, as I say, we have learnt to live with our foibles.

So why change anything? Why make formal an accommodation that has worked satisfactorily thus far?

The answer is that the timing is now right. When my second marriage ended, there were two young children to consider. That Linus and Sally have grown up with none of the hang-ups of most other youngsters from split families is much credit to their mother, but also to Mary, who has adored them from the start. Early on in our relationship she decided not to have children of her own, and we both resolved not to stretch loyalties by forcing Linus and Sally to acknowledge a ceremony that would inevitably have created, in them, feelings of guilt. Circumstances now are different. Linus and Sally are as keen as anyone for the marriage to go ahead, not least because it promises a splendid party. I can only commend their sense of priority.

There are other family considerations — though not for me as, apart from Linus and Sally, I am without traceable links. Mary does more than enough to compensate with a sufficiency of relatives to fill the "begat" parts of the Bible. And they all seem to be enormously pleased by the news. It feels good to make so many people happy, though a few years ago their response might not have been so enthusiastic. I have a vivid memory

of Mary's father telling me pointedly that he had just renewed his shotgun licence.

Opting for a civil marriage, the question arises, where is the ceremony to be held? Nowadays, of course, you can get married just about anywhere as long as the premises are licensed. Which brings me to the Old Vic. How the idea was born, heaven only knows, but Mary has decided that we should be married on the stage there. Maybe we should offer tickets.

But I have still not quite answered the question of why we are doing it. We are very much in love and there are no longer any family hindrances to marriage, but it would have been easy to carry on as we were. Neither of us bows to convention, and, as the older partner, I am not so naive as to think that a relationship can be made more secure by a scrap of paper.

But there is something else. Having lived with Mary for more than a decade, I know that I am truly content. When I asked her to marry me, it was as much for celebration of the past as hope for the future. I wanted some way of giving thanks for the wonderful years, and a marriage seemed the best, perhaps the only, acknowledgement. I never did get round to thinking what I would have done if Mary had said no.

BARRY TURNER



Barry Turner and Mary Fulton: "Having lived with her for more than a decade, I know that I am truly content... marriage is as much for celebration of the past as hope for the future"

'Getting married is almost like inverse chic'

The recent press furore over Liam Gallagher and Patsy Kensit has really got me wondering. I mean, they're young, they're groovy, they're happening, they've been on the cover of *Vanity Fair*. They're at the epicentre of the Zeitgeist. So what on earth do they want to get married for?

Does this mean that marriage is the new rock and roll? Liam and Patsy are hardly Middle England. For these two to get hitched is almost like inverse chic, the same sort of back-to-front logic as the return of lounge music. But it demonstrates a curious phenomenon: people still really want to get married. It doesn't matter how rock and roll they are, it doesn't matter how many times they've done it before. It doesn't matter how modern and iconoclastic they are.

I just don't get it. Depending on who you believe, anything from 35 per cent to 50 per cent of marriages end in failure, rising to 60 per cent if you have the misfortune to live in Hollywood. (It strikes me that in Hollywood, if you're really clever, you just marry your divorce lawyer and save time and money.) I don't call those great odds. If marriage was a horse, no self-respecting gambler would bet on it.

I admit, I am biased. I don't want to get married. If you tell people this, they react in one of three ways: they laugh uneasily, thinking you must be joking; they accuse you of being unnatural, selfish and generally subversive, and then say that you're just saying that to be controversial, and

they don't believe you anyway; they give you the most patronising looks you've ever had in your life and tell you that of course you'll change your mind when you meet the right man.

Why is it that this ancient institution is so jealously guarded? Marriage was invented by people who were lucky to live to 40, in another time and another world. Nobody seems to be able to tell me why we're still doing it. When you ask people why they get married even the most articulate become vague.

Security, they say. It's the greatest commitment you can make, they mutter. Well, the statistics boys might have something to say about that. It's a flimsy security, safe only until the lawyers get called in.

Sometimes, usually when they've been drinking, married people get a bit teary and say that marriage is the highest manifestation of their love for each other. This is where I start getting lost again. Dancing up an aisle in a big dress which costs enough to feed a family of four for a month, making vows about till death do us part, which

A BIASED VIEW



Tania Kindersley: baffled

even the most naive must know are no more than an educated guess, and then watching all your friends and relations get drunk and make bad speeches, is not exactly my idea of love's greatest possible manifestation.

I have an absurd, romantic notion that love should exist for its own sake, not because of legal ties, or ceremonial obligation. If ever I consider spending the rest of my life with one person, I should like him to stay for me, not because he's said so in front of a crowd of people, not because

divorce is expensive. If you can say to someone: "Here is the door, it's open," that is the real sign of love and trust. Surely that is real security?

So what is this marriage tic? And why can no one explain it to me? Why is it that people still promise to honour and cherish when most men admit that fidelity is something they find difficult at best, impossible at worst. Why is it that married people so often have a slightly baffled, bemused, I-want-my-money-back expression.

Marriage is, for better or worse, an institution and, as Mae West once

said, I'm not ready for an institution. I don't want to hand over my identity by taking on someone else's name. I sometimes wake at night in a cold sweat at the idea of being Mrs Someone. I look at married couples, and I don't think it looks like much fun to me. They're the ones who walk into parties and immediately head for opposite ends of the room. The wives complain that they never have sex any more, the husbands complain that they are emasculated and misunderstood.

We're told that marriage is hard work, a long, emotional slog, not just a walk in the park. I've heard women say that they never knew what it was like to be really lonely until they got married.

We've put men on the Moon, we've built a tunnel under the Channel, we're investigating the far reaches of cyberspace. Surely we have the imagination to come up with something better in human relations than an institution that came in with the Ark.

Personally, I think the ideal is to live in separate houses and still go on dates. That way, you not only keep the romance alive, but you never have to argue about who squeezed the toothpaste tube in the middle. And think of all those divorce lawyers who would be out of a job.

TANIA KINDERSLEY

• Tania Kindersley's most recent book, *Don't Ask Me*, is published by Scribner.

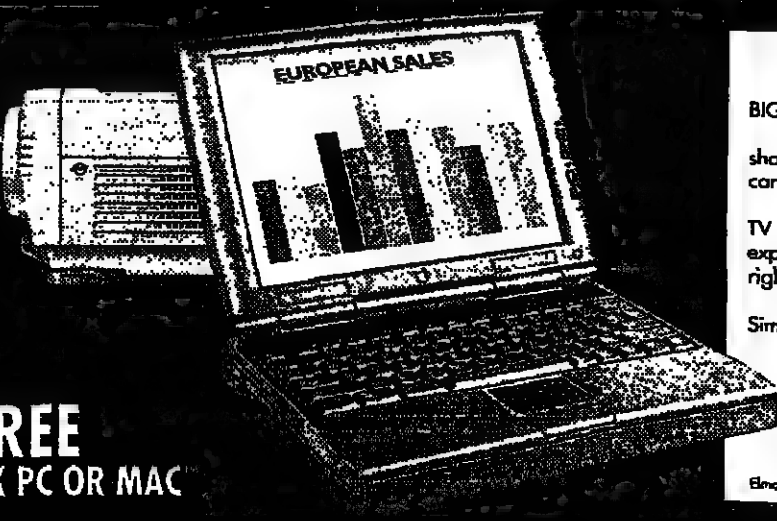
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Everyone is rushing down the aisle to join the trendiest club in town

Joe Joseph on the reasons why matrimony is right back in fashion

If you're the hip, rebellious type, then naturally the very last thing you want to do is rush off and get married. Because first of all you have to locate a suitable venue, discuss catering arrangements, commission a top florist, and make sure that Smythson's can get all the invitations engraved in time.

But matrimony has become so fashionable that people like Liam and Patsy, and Ricky and Bianca from *EastEnders* have all decided it's the trendiest club in town.

Why? Because at its best, marriage combines a mystical love with rollercoaster excitement — even if it's only the excitement of wondering whether your very next row will be the one that convinces you that you're sharing your life with someone with whom you have nothing in common beyond the right to trial by jury.

These passions and thrills together exert enough emotional pull to persuade even those rather unlikely spouses to get hitched: consider the supposed tearaway Liam Gallagher of Oasis, or the supposed actress Pamela Anderson, Gallagher, who has just married Patsy Kensit in secret, has made desert boots hip again. Why not marriage, too?

Daniel Day-Lewis, also in secret,

recently married Arthur Miller's daughter in Vermont, which jolted chums who had him down as a confirmed bachelor. Pop's ever-whitening wonder Michael Jackson recently wed, and that was his second bite at the cherry, while last week on *EastEnders*, television's coolest soap, Ricky and Bianca finally got hitched.

Behaving like this is almost a rebellion against the convention of cohabiting. How widespread a rebellion? So widespread that Superman and Lois, after 60 years of cooing across the *Daily Planet* newsroom, just tied the knot.

So what's the big attraction? One of them is that living together isn't thought so hot any more. Research at the University of California, based on 45,000 marriages, has found that 50 per cent of cohabiting couples who subsequently married were divorced within five years; by contrast, fewer than 40 per cent of those who married without first living together split up during the same period.

Another attraction is that it is now proven that marriage is healthier than going to the gym, and without the need for so many freshly laundered towels.

Dr Inez Joung, an epidemiologist at Rotterdam's Erasmus Univer-



The wedding half the nation stayed in for: now Ricky and Bianca from *EastEnders* are married, they are likely to be happier and healthier, according to psychologists

sity, has found that happily married couples suffer half the illness and spend half as much time in hospital as single people. Measuring the health of married people against that of single, cohabiting, divorced and widowed men and women for conditions ranging from heart disease to varicose veins, Dr Joung found that "married people were healthier than any of the others, particularly divorced people, who suffered from 30 per cent more chronic conditions".

Somehow, this scientific revelation still doesn't stop divorce in its tracks. Many women rush to the divorce courts because they feel that their husbands are slothful or insensitive or selfish. But, in fact, most men do remember those small but important details of the woman in their life, such as their birthday and the fact that they have two eyes, one on either side of their

nose, probably brownish-blue. Anyway, if women really wanted to spend their life with something slim, sanitary and sensitive they'd set up home with a sterilised thermometer.

And just because some unhappily married women actually decide to do just that, don't jump to the conclusion that a booming divorce rate is a bad advertisement for marriage. It is only if you don't actually remarry. By remarrying, divorcees reaffirm their belief in marriage. It is the triumph of hope over experience. Take, for example, Hollywood, which has always been marriage city.

Mickey Rooney, Gloria Swanson, Rex Harrison, Elizabeth Taylor, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Johnny "Tarzan" Weissmuller, Ernest Borgnine, George C. Scott, Henry Fonda, Cary Grant, Rita Hayworth, Jason Robards, Eddie Fish-

er, and Doris Day — between them these 14 Hollywood stars walked up the aisle 80 times. They regarded *Marriage* not as the name of their trade journal but as some sort of marital command.

But not all showbiz types ricochet up and down the aisle like billiard balls. Some are dealt four aces and decide to stick. Paul Newman married Joanne Woodward in 1958, when they were 27 and 23, respectively, and is still happily married. "Why go out for hamburger when you can have steak at home?" is Newman's love theory. Judi Dench, who got hitched to Michael Williams in 1971, says: "Just to be with one another in the same room gives us pleasure. That's the strength of our marriage."

Britain's alternative comedians didn't prove very alternative when

it came to popping the question. Ben Elton, Hugh Laurie and Rowan Atkinson have tied the knot. Jennifer Saunders is Mrs Ade Edmonson. Dawn French is married to Lenny Henry, who says: "I have somebody I care for and who cares for me. That's what counts."

Iris Murdoch has been devotedly married to John Bayley for more than 40 years. The fact that the Queen and Prince Philip are coming up for their 50th wedding anniversary, having avoided the rocks that shipwrecked all their children's marriages, might betray something about why divorce has been on the rise.

The divorce rate is booming because the expectations of marriage have outstripped the education, preparation and support for it," says Dr Jack Dominian, chairman of One Plus One, a charity which carries out research into the

prevention of marital breakdown. In spite of this, says Dr Dominian, "marriage remains very solid. People still want companionship, friendship, security, love, children. A stable family and a good job are the two most important things in life."

So, any tips on how to find the right partner, and how to then stay married to them? One Plus One's thinking is that "it's not the compatibility that matters — what is important is how you handle your disagreements."

Phyllis Diller, disparagingly, compared marriage to a bath, because "once you get into it, it's not so hot". In fact, marriage is like a bath because the longer you are married to someone, the wrinklier your skin gets. If your skin grows wrinklier with the same person for 30 years, then you probably got into the right bath.

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TOMORROW

John Bayley on how a long and happy marriage to Iris Murdoch began after he saw her pedalling a bicycle past an Oxford college

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



POP

Right on with the voice of the Left: Billy Bragg agitates the Waterfront, Norwich
GIG: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



MUSIC

Welcome to my town: Simon Rattle brings the Vienna Phil to Birmingham
CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



OPERA

Angela Gheorghiu plays the coveted dame in *L'elisir d'amore* at Covent Garden
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS

John Wayne and the myth of American manhood is examined in a fascinating new study
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

The buzz of the new was unmistakable. Odd to come across it in the banquet room of the Royal Lancaster Hotel, deeply carpeted with rolling acres of corridors and overlooking Hyde Park. Odder still to find it at an awards ceremony, usually the occasion for a hearty celebration of the obvious. Oddest of all perhaps that this new buzz is connected with what are usually categorised as the most expendable: advertisements, music videos, the design of CDs — and of Internet websites, for goodness sake! But the buzz was certainly there at *Music Week's* Creative and Design Awards. A new generation of British designers, artists and filmmakers has taken to conventionally unregarded areas in the arts and is coming up trumps.

It was seeing a concentration of the work that convinced me. This was not just the latest batch of new kids on the block who are turning up equally in pop music, on television and in poetry. There was a feeling that there was a particular

In the world of 45 revolutions per minute

platoon with a grip on the advanced information technologies which will make a huge impact in the next century — and they were playing with them. A rather fanciful analogy occurred to me with the late Victorian age, when Huxley's scientists and British engineers had the confidence to know that they were at a cutting edge, and revelled in it.

Certainly, at a time when universities are complaining about a decline in interest in science and engineering it's intriguing that young men and women have acquired highly complex communication skills which they use for trade and manufacturing and yet practise as an art form.

Perhaps the nature of the gathering itself gave a clue. Despite the starched white napkins and the usual speedy awards three-course meal and all the established para-

phernalia of doing these things, this crowd was markedly different. It was substantially younger than most awards. It was very casually dressed — or rather the male half was very casually dressed, although I am prepared to be told that the flapping shirts and general loose gear are in fact the giddy height of today's young male fashion. The female half was very smart but not *Dressed Up For Awards* smart. It was either Spice Girls out for fun or young career women in business.

Every runner-up and every winner was given a generous rousing bellow of appreciation from the committed tables. The speakers were brief, sotto voce and modest.

The event of the evening came when one young winner held up his napkin and showed it around the room. He had written a proposal of marriage on it and he



was spotlighted back to his table where his bride-to-be (?) Sam was standing on the table — where else? — waiting for him. Although the work done by these creative and design teams

was deeply involved with British pop music, it seems to me that many of the awards winners had not only taken advantage of that, but used it for their own ends to develop their skills.

Although the videos, for instance, were inevitably short, the craft and vision that had gone into them came from the same impulses which will most probably take many of these young filmmakers into feature films and television. Tony Kearns, for example, who won the Best Editing in a Video category, spoke of his objective as "putting images on screen that bring out a sound or an instrument that maybe people have registered before, simply by hearing it". In short, adding his own dimension and making something new of it.

Chris Oddy, who did the art direction for the video for the

Prodigy's No 1 single, *Breathe*, constructed four different decaying rooms in such a way that the director and cameraman could do the whole work in one day's shoot. That mix of intensity and economy is becoming more crucial in film and the expertise shown here was striking.

The two big winners of the evening were Jonathan Glazer and Mark Farrow. It came as no surprise to me that Glazer is now working on his first feature film. It is equally significant, I think, that although Farrow had a brief college background he began his career at the bottom of the pop and design industry and the client, the commission and the goods are an integral part of his creative thinking. There are some rather impressive precedents for that in art over the past few hundred years.

A final thought: that there was a

tough, unsubsidised street-cred business and yet one which is of very high quality. It is driven by the same forces and instincts that drive all the other arts — which is no surprise. What was a surprise, though, was the amount of it, its confidence and the feeling that this mix of commerce and talent could be at a cutting edge.

When *The English Patient* was first published as a novel there was much praise and some talk of its difficulty. A few critics seemed to believe that its complexity kept it properly for the few. Here was a novel that proved that certain talents were, in the end, for small elites.

I find it a matter for celebration, therefore, that since the film came out the book is being read all over the place. It is being pored over by masses who might have been thought to be outside its natural target audience. They seem to be having no difficulty with it. Perhaps there still is a Common Reader after all.

Once Moor with feeling

Verdi's setting of Shakespeare's tragedy opens with such an almighty wallop in the orchestra that it's all too easy to think of it as a relentlessly loud opera, vocally and orchestrally. But the score is littered with markings of dolcissimo and pianissimo, and one of the many pleasures of last Thursday's revival was the finesse and delicacy of so much of the singing and playing. This was very far from being a routine revival hurled onstage; it had been really carefully prepared.

In his UK operatic debut, the Korean conductor Myung-

OPERA

Otello
Covent Garden

Whun Chung made his intentions plain at the very start after the thunderclap at curtain-rise, orchestra and chorus were reduced to a thread of sound, doubling the excitement of the scene, and throughout Chung showed a fine ear for texture in a reading that was lithe and fleet of foot without sounding driven. Perhaps there were mo-

ments — the drinking song, the vengeance duet, that supremely painful duet for Otello and Desdemona in the third act — when one wanted a little more traditional weight of sound and phrase, but in general the performance made you think about the score afresh.

Vladimir Bogachov returned to the title role. He has all the notes, and the necessary ringing sound at the top, but it was his soft singing that impressed the most; he and his Desdemona, Kallen Esperian, sang the love duet with an easy lyricism that eludes so many more trumpet performers, and turned what can be something of a trial into an episode of genuinely Verdian beauty. Bogachov also has the elemental power of personality for the Moor, and his interpretation is free of any sense of artifice, which makes it all the more stirring. What you see is what you get.

Esperian's beautifully soft-grained tone never loses its

‘This was far from being a routine revival hurled onstage’

quality under pressure, and she can deliver long, long phrases on the breath. *The Willow Song* and *Ave Maria* — dolcissimo and pianissimo indeed — were ravishingly sung. Should Desdemona show more spirit, more vocal edge? Maybe, but I'll happily settle for Esperian's lyricism.

After a jittery first act in his house debut, Paolo Gavanelli (Iago) whammed into the Crede, his warm yet incisive tone more closely focused than his pitching. Thereafter, it was his soft singing that gripped the imagination. He was a horribly plausible Iago, wide-eyed and innocent, so onerous that he too seemed to be believing the lies he was telling. Spooky.

Timothy O'Brien's Venetian-inspired sets wear well, and Elijah Moshinsky's production was safe in the hands of Richard Gregson. Supporting roles were all well taken, and, as indicated, the chorus and orchestra were at their most alert. All manner of clouds may be gathering around Covent Garden, but what happens on stage is still world-class.

RODNEY MILNES



Strength in numbers: Vladimir Bogachov impresses as Otello in Verdi's opera

End of a tour and an era

WHEN Erasure entered the synth-pop arena in 1986, Heaven 17 were already old news. So the final night of Andy Bell and Vince Clarke's latest excursion provided an anachronistic pleasure as the earlier electronic warriors completed their first tour as the duo's special guests.

Clarke was a turn-of-the-Eighties contemporary of Heaven 17 as a founder member of Depeche Mode, and has outlasted them as the strong and silent partner in Erasure, while Bell consumes the camera as their camp focal point.

In their decade-plus together, Erasure have had best-selling albums in spades, including five consecutive number ones from 1988 to 1994, and 26 top 40 singles. But recent statistics suggest that the swingometer is edging in the opposite direction. The memories were dutifully delivered with *A Little Respect* and Abba's *Take a Chance on Me* among the most warmly greeted. But in keeping with the swift commercial demise of their current tenth album, *Cowboy*, there was something humdrum in the delivery that came over as not just end-of-tour, but end-of-era.

One could not fault Bell's vocals nor the theatricality of

POP
Erasure
Wembley Arena

the set, decked out as Deadwood Gulch with campfire, saloon and covered wagon. But the contrast between Bell's flouncy persona and Clarke's

detachment brought an uneasy disparity. So the lead singer played his usual Danny La Rue of pop while the "instrumentalist" tweaked the occasional knob on his synthesiser stack. Otherwise Clarke was an unintentionally comic spare part: even dressing him up as a cactus fell strangely flat.

PAUL SEXTON



Sensual classics

JAZZ

Jobim Celebration
Barbican

ANYONE who had doubts about Antonio Carlos Jobim's place in the first rank of this century's songwriters would have had them resolved by this display. His music is to our era what George Gershwin's represented to an earlier generation.

Tribute concerts so often degenerate into parades of guest stars determined to impose their own ego on the proceedings. What made this latest instalment of the Jazz At The Barbican series so memorable was that the performers were clearly determined to allow the seductive melodies to speak for themselves.

Neither Jobim's guitar-playing son, Paulo, nor the cellist Jacques Morelenbaum could remotely be described as star names; but having played on so many of the composer's records, they carry the harmonies in their bloodstream. The same is true of Paula Morelenbaum, whose astonishingly pure vocals were never troubled by the idiosyncratic melodic twists and instrumental-like intervals.

With Jobim's grandson Daniel at the piano, and Marcos Feijao in charge of a minimalist drum kit, the acoustic quartet offered compelling chamber settings of *Double Rainbow* — something of a jazz standard now — and the less familiar contours of *Surfboard*.

As for the better-known

songs, many are forever linked with the conversational delivery of João Gilberto. Both the younger Jobims were able to evoke the same, slightly nasal timbre, Paul Jobim poking gentle fun at himself during the rarely-heard verse to Gene Lees's English translation of *Desafinado*, that hypnotic love-letter.

The contrived rhymes of *Samba do Soho* represented one of the very few, sub-standard items. For the rest, it was a matter of sitting back, a foolish grin on one's face, and marveling at the fertility of Jobim's writing and the rhythmic verve of a group which relied on the most subtle of dynamics.

Tall and tanned, the *Girl From Ipanema* was bound to stroll by before the close, but the song was dispatched without fanfare, as if to emphasise that there was far more to its composer than slinky, sun-and-sand bossa nova. The austere, quasi-classical treatment of *Chora Coração*, arranged for cello, voice and piano, drove that point home long before the end.

CLIVE DAVIS

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Europe is rooting for Blair

Michael Butler says our partners want to negotiate reasonably

There are many good reasons for voting Labour in the election. Britain needs a change. In a democracy no single party should remain too long in power. The Tories are quarrelling among themselves. Above all, their policies on Europe have become increasingly damaging both to the national interest and to the efficient conduct of business in the EU. More and more, the Conservatives have been addressing their internal problems rather than trying to deal effectively with the issues of national importance with which they are faced in the EU Council and at the inter-governmental conference on treaty amendment. They made a complete hash of the BSE crisis, vetoing proposals they had previously worked hard to have adopted, irritating other EU governments to the point of wanting to do us down and falling totally to have the beef ban lifted. In the inter-governmental conference they have sought to placate their own Eurosceptics by striking intransigent postures while letting Britain's interests go unprotected. If they were returned to power and continued as before, Britain would find itself left out of more and more important decisions, until our membership ceased to have any value.

Promoting and protecting British interests in the EU is too important for party political games. We have to learn to work with rather than against our European partners. We have to seek allies in support of our proposals. John Major's Government has failed in this respect. I have been involved at almost every stage of our policy in Europe since 1961, and no previous British government has been held in such contempt.

As an adviser to Labour on European policy, I have been talking privately to representatives of most of the EU governments over the past few months. No other British government has ever, even during Labour's "renegotiation" in 1974-75 or Margaret Thatcher's budget refund campaign in the early 1980s, been in a position in which no other government was willing to give it any support at all.

The other governments know very well that Tony Blair and his colleagues will promote and protect the national interest with determination, but they do not expect ideological anti-European attitudes to prevail in the Labour Party, or the sort of divisions that have disgraced the Conservative Party. I myself have talked often enough with Robin Cook to know that he will deal with the host of difficult issues which the Tories will bequeath to him in a moderate and reasonable way. Labour will want Britain to start winning a few rounds in Brussels.

The Eurosceptic myths are too vague to be easy to deal with. Significant numbers of Tories seem genuinely, indeed passionately, to believe that the EU is threatening the British way of life, that Chancellor Kohl is the new Bismarck, and that Germany is about to abolish British sovereignty by EU means, having failed to do so by force of arms. They dismiss with contempt the thought that the EU provides reassurance that Western European countries will never fight each other again. Their hostility to other Europeans is such that they seem completely oblivious to the fact that the countries that make up the EU are all free democracies which have chosen to work together for the common good.

Eurosceptic Conservative backbenchers belittle our European trade — even though we export more to the Netherlands than to all the Asian tigers put together. They also fail to realise that we have given up more sovereignty by becoming dependent on the Americans in Nato than by signing the Treaty of Maastricht. Their judgment is distorted by prejudice and fear, and their controlling influence over national policy has been deeply damaging to Britain.

The other EU governments are well informed by their embassies in London. They do not expect a Blair government to be a pushover — they have seen how firmly he has acted to reform his party — but they do expect Labour ministers to be reasonable men and women seeking agreements that protect British interests. I have been able to tell them with complete conviction that their expectation is correct. I appeal to my fellow citizens who want Britain to succeed in Europe to join me in voting Labour.

Sir Michael Butler was Britain's Permanent Representative to the EC, 1979-85.

Apathy may lead to a low turnout this time, but the young generation is enterprising and promising

Fife is marching to a different drum

We canvassed a thousand houses in the Central Fife constituency on Saturday. In all, about 7,500 have been canvassed so far, and the plan is to get over the half-way mark before polling day. There are about 25,000 houses in the constituency. As the Conservatives run third to Labour and the SNP, this will be no small achievement. My younger son, Jacob, is fighting Central Fife as though it were a marginal, which it certainly is not.

There were 18 canvassers on Saturday, a mixed collection of local activists, family — Annunziata interrupted her A-level revision to come up here — Jacob's friends from London and Hong Kong, and students from Edinburgh University. Jacob is much teased by the left-wing press because he has the support of his nanny, Veronica Crook, who has been with us for more than 30 years. In fact, she proves to be the star canvasser, quick, friendly, tackling Glenrothes new town as though she were visiting neighbours in the Somerset village of Rington. She even handles repartee on the doorstep. "He's nae a Scot" — "No Scot put in for it."

The canvass leaves little doubt about the result. As in 1992, Labour will win comfortably, the SNP will be the main challenger; there are Conservatives about, but not enough of them. On Saturday none of the canvassers came across a single Liberal voter; the only Referendum Party supporters we saw were the candidate and his agent, who were leafleting Leven High Street at the same time as we were. I felt sheepish handing out Conservative leaflets outside Boots: I partially saved my status as a journalist and a Lords cross-bencher by refraining from wearing a rosette. My leafleting is in any case far too tentative; eventually I bought a copy of *The Big Issue* and gave the vendor a leaflet in exchange.

We start the day canvassing in Macedonia, a district of Glenrothes that is reached via St Columbus roundabout. Glenrothes has more roundabouts and

humps in the road than any other town I have ever been in. They are designed to frustrate canvassers as well as motorists. The street plan looks like one of those mazes which used to be published in comics for little children. We fan out. I accompany Jacob, who is also accompanied by a *Daily Telegraph* correspondent and a photographer. Some of the soundbites have reached Glenrothes. "I'm on the dole, but I wouldn't vote for phony Tony."

Jacob strides ahead. I find another Tory. She is a Londoner, a grandmother who has moved to Glenrothes to be close to her grandchildren. "I'd never vote Labour after living under Hammersmith Council." She says she is a refugee from Ken Livingstone. Jacob is talking to a wavering voter, who voted Tory last time. In voting terms, this is the main value of canvassing: it confirms supporters who have become doubtful. In political terms it has an even greater value in letting the candidates meet live opinions. People tell us that no party has canvassed them personally in years. One old lady complains that she has been canvassed by telephone; she does not know which party did it, for she put down the receiver, but she thinks it is an extravagant waste of money.

At dinner, when we are discussing the day's experience, it is the negatives that stand out. The biggest, and most worrying, is the feeling of apathy, bordering on resentment, of many of the voters. "They're all the same... They've never done anything for me... It won't make

any difference... I never have anything to do with politics... I'm not going to vote." This election may prove to be the event which politicians have always feared, a protest general election: some of the blame for these public resentments inevitably falls on the government of the day, but much of it falls on politics and politicians as such. I fear there may be a low poll throughout the country.

The second big negative is Tony Blair's image. Presumably Henry Mo-

William Rees-Mogg

Leish, the Labour candidate, speaks enthusiastically of him, but so far the only other person I have heard do so is myself. I told an evening meeting in the Victoria Hall that I thought he was "open, intelligent and courageous", though I went on to say I thought he was a Tory. The next warmest support for him was one woman who said she was going to vote "for Tony Blair". Otherwise in Central Fife he is a non-person. Most of the Labour voters are voting Labour because that is their party. Central Fife has inherited a solid Scottish Labour culture from the days before 1914, when the young men went down the pits to dig coal for the Balfour family. Here "new

Labour" means nothing at all. It is a London event.

The biggest negative of all is the SNP. They are not, I think, greatly improving their position in Central Fife, though they have a good candidate. Like most Englishmen I have a sympathy with traditional Scottish nationalism, though my one notable Scottish ancestor, Andrew Henderson, supported the Hanoverians against Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745, as many Scottish patriots did. The SNP has, however, now moved to the left: of the four parties in Scotland, the Conservatives are furthest to the right, then comes Labour, then the Liberal Democrats, and the SNP are on the left wing. They advocate a so-called independent Scotland inside what would have to be a federal regional Europe. That would transfer power from London to Brussels, and from democracy to bureaucracy. In fact, they make much more sense in a Westminster studio than they do on the ground in Scotland.

Another negative is the electorate's lack of interest in foreign affairs. Jacob's canvassers are a cosmopolitan group. A Danish visitor observes that Fife feels more like Denmark than England does. The Hong Kong friends discuss the future of China; they admire Chris Patten — if you hear "the Governor" mentioned in the bar of the Laurel Bank Hotel, it is Governor Patten they are talking about — and they drink confusion to Sir Percy Cradock in a wide selection of single malts. Apart from Europe, no one

has heard a single reference to foreign policy on the doorstep.

Europe is a real issue, perhaps the only issue which is getting through the apathy. The voters of Central Fife are, so far as I can judge, predominantly Eurosceptic. The Referendum Party agent finds that SNP supporters are his best converts, once they discover that the SNP is not an independence party, but a Euro-federalist one. The decision of John Major to allow a free vote in Parliament on the single currency appears on the doorstep to be not a blunder, but the best decision he has made in this campaign. He has freed Tory candidates to say what they really think without feeling disloyal; voters are more impressed by the fresh air of honest opinions than by the breakdown of party discipline.

In the end, I feel heartened by the canvassing group as much as by the results they are achieving. All of those who have come to support Jacob from outside the constituency, apart from Veronica and his parents, are aged between 18 and 28. Few of them have political ambitions themselves. They are all global in their viewpoint. They see Europe as only one part of the bigger world. They are not aggressively right-wing. Their personal causes include such issues as the international prevention of torture; they feel strongly about the future of Bosnia and Tibet. They have worked in them. First-year students at Edinburgh University, reading hard subjects such as mechanical engineering, give up a day to canvass Central Fife. That must be good news for the future health of British politics.

From what I see of them, as the friends of my children, this British generation of the 1990s is proving an exceptionally good one. They have an openness and courage that are very attractive. They are prepared to work and are realistic. They see the new opportunities of the world, but have compassion for its suffering. A Tory party that can appeal to their idealism will recover from any defeat.

And tomorrow, the world

Peter Riddell asks whether Tony Blair's globalism means betraying old supporters

Tony Blair is now in the paradoxical position of a general on the brink of a triumph which many of his troops regard as hollow. On May 1, Labour should win only the third decisive election victory in its history, after 1945 and 1966. But many of Labour's traditional supporters, as opposed to the Blairite vanguard, are more enthusiastic about getting rid of the Tories than about what a "new" Labour government might achieve.

Polls suggest that turnout may be well down in safe Labour seats, while several candidates defending big majorities report a flat response, especially from older voters on council estates. This is apart from the ambivalent attitude towards Blairism of union leaders (as at the Scottish TUC this week) and the disillusionment of many Labour intellectuals that Robert Taylor reports in the current *Spectator*. Of course, many of the intellectuals are relics of the battles of the 1960s and 1970s who have never understood why Labour lost in the 1980s, or former Marxists who have embraced Labour modernisation as the only hope for the Left. Others accept the demise of "old" Labour, but wonder whether "new" Labour is any more than effective campaigning tactics masking shallow populism. American observers like Joe Klein have been quick to draw unflattering parallels with Bill Clinton.

Their doubts contrast with the enthusiasm that Labour generated in 1945 and in 1964-66. In the war years up to 1945, a broad consensus in favour of extensive social reform and public ownership had been established, in part by Labour members of the wartime coalition, who went on to dominate the Attlee Government. In the mid 1960s, Harold Wilson skillfully identified with, and exploited, a revolt against an "old school tie" regime, as he called it, and in favour of more active government and intervention in the economy. This enthusiasm barely outlasted Labour's landslide win in 1966 before disenchantment set in.

The mood now is less clearcut. Many left-wing intellectuals and traditional



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

Labour supporters reject the free market approach of the Thatcher and Major years, and want to return to progressive taxation and higher public spending. But Mr Blair and his allies do not. They have rejected redistribution through the tax system and embraced international capitalism. Indeed, the distinctive feature of Mr Blair's approach, as of Mr Clinton's, is its explicit acceptance of globalisation: free trade and markets, deregulation, tight fiscal and monetary policy and limits on levels of taxation.

The desirability of globalisation is being challenged on the American Left in new books by Robert Kuttner and William Greider (as well as in an article entitled "The Capitalist Threat" by that ubiquitous trendsetter George Soros). Dick Gephardt, minority leader in the House and a strong runner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000, has also raised his standard on this ground, arguing for environmental and labour safeguards in any new free trade deals. In Britain, this argument has been less

prominent, though it has been echoed in the elegant critiques of the political philosopher John Gray and in the more rumbustious polemics of the journalist Will Hutton. The latter's sweeping denunciations of British finance and industry for short-termism have been widely attacked as exaggerated and flawed, but have been influential among the less sophisticated on the Left. Hutton has offered an alternative programme based on constitutional reform and the continental (or "Rhensian") model of social and industrial partnership under the doctrine of "stakeholding", partially qualified in his new book, *The State to Come*.

Mr Blair appeared for a time to be veering in this direction when he emphasised the term "stakeholding" in big speeches in January last year, in Tokyo and Singapore. But his advisers quickly made clear that he did not endorse the kinds of changes to the legal structure of

companies envisaged by Hutton and opposed by the CBI and others. Stakeholding was presented as merely an umbrella term for social inclusiveness, rather than a specific programme.

However, Tory policymakers such as David Willetts argue that "new" Labour has embraced a discredited continental approach (as opposed to the successful Anglo-American version) which risks giving the unions more power, adding to industrial costs and undermining Britain's competitiveness. Mr Blair has argued that signing the social chapter merely means minimum acceptable standards at the workplace, and that other European countries now reject the ambitious Delors vision and oppose new directives that would raise business costs.

But if Blairism does not involve a radical restructuring of capitalism, and accepts the Anglo-American model, is it any more than Majorism with softer edges? Many previously sympathetic left-wing intellectuals now argue that a Blair administration would have no ideological

roots and could quickly lose support. But Blairism does represent a new approach, possibly the only one available for a centre-left party now. Like Mr Clinton, Mr Blair argues that the job of centre-left governments is to enable ordinary people to benefit, rather than suffer, from the economic and social changes produced by globalisation. In his City speech two weeks ago, he developed what he called "flexibility plus": building on flexible labour markets with welfare reform, a greater emphasis on education and job training to equip people with the necessary skills, and investment in infrastructure, science and research.

That is, of course, straight Bill Clinton. But as Robert Reich, the Labor Secretary in the first Clinton term, argues in his memoir *Locked in the Cabinet*, extra funding for education and training immediately became a victim of the pressures of financial markets and the need to reduce the budget deficit. Labour has tried to avoid this problem by avoiding the promises of higher spending than the start. The only pledge of substance from Labour has been to take 250,000 young unemployed off the dole, but this is being financed through the one-off windfall levy on the privatised utilities.

Mr Blair is relying on a shift of spending from welfare to education, but this will take time. So it is hard to see how "flexibility plus" can be turned into reality without raising taxes, or accepting more private provision. Labour's policies and scaremongering campaign rhetoric on health and social security are inconsistent without extra spending.

Of course, much will look different in two weeks' time if Labour has a clear Commons majority. However limited the pledges, and however low the expectations, there will be a new beginning. There will be a sense of excitement, and probably much hot air about a new "Camelot". While it may be largely Tory measures, Labour men and women will bring a fresh approach.

Mr Blair has played safe so far in the campaign, understandably in view of Labour's huge poll lead. A rare exception was last Thursday in Edinburgh, when he delivered a rousing speech to the faithful, but emphasising mainly the "old" Labour virtues rather than the "new" Labour arguments. Mr Blair now needs to show where and how Labour could really make a difference. How it could transcend the spending and tax constraints set by the Tories. Can a centre-left party make a success of free market capitalism without betraying its supporters?

Blarney II

HILLARY CLINTON is hoping to visit Ireland later this year without her husband. She came in 1995 with the President during the IRA ceasefire. So impressed was she by what she saw that she wants to come back, taking in both Ulster and the Republic on her trip.

The atmosphere of any visit will be very different to her husband's euphoric tour when the guns were silent and he could speak hopefully of the path to peace. She will stick to the usual First Lady round of school and hospital visits, avoiding anything like the staged surprise meeting between the President and Gerry Adams outside a Belfast bakery.

"A visit from her will show that the President still cares about Ireland even after his re-election," says one prominent Washington Irishman. "But it will avoid any of the political awkwardness of a full presidential tour."

Not that the Administration has ever shown much regard for John

Major's policy towards Ireland, having gone so far as to issue visas to Sinn Féin men against the express wishes of the Foreign and Northern Ireland Offices.

"Clinton's team are hoping for a



"I thought adopting the purple was going too far"

Labour victory, not just because many of them are friends with Blair's advisers, but also because it will be easier for them to get involved in Ireland. Mrs Clinton's visit is just one part of that.

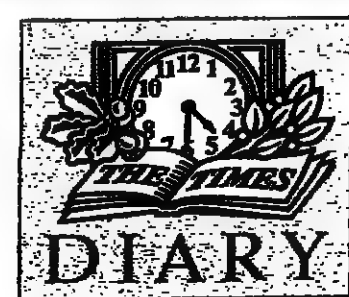
Latin gags

RESULTS are in for the Classical Association's limerick contest. Readers of the *Class. Ass.* magazine were given the first two lines of two limericks and had to complete the rest. H.H. Huxley came up with this for the first one:

There were two young girls in the
Who cut up *The Times* for their fillies.
To have used *The Express*
Would show poor sense of dress.
Tempora mutantur nos et mutamur
in illis

There were even more entries completing the limerick which began: "There was a young girl of Naupactus / Who had an affair with a cactus." Sadly they must remain confined to the top shelf.

Professionalism has brought bunny girls to rugby union. One



player who recently visited Bedford, in the second division, reports: "You come storming out ready to play, and there on either side of the players' tunnel are two chesty girls in skimpy T-shirts and shorts. I mean, you want to stop and say hello, not go and play rugby. It's a low-down, dirty tactic."

Non-event

ALREADY widely suspected as the man who shopped Will Self for snorting heroin on the Prime Minister's plane, Simon Walters, the political editor of *The Express* on Sunday found himself handbagged

by Tony Blair the other day. For months he had been badgering Blair for an interview. Finally, last week, Blair's press secretary suddenly succumbed to one of his routine requests: "Yeah, you can speak to him now."

While notepads were flying at the *Express*, Blair came on the phone. "This is total guff", "Come off it!", "Complete nonsense", "Rubbish!", "Let's not be silly", "Ha!", "Utter tosh" and "I wasn't born yesterday" were just some of Blair's replies to the impromptu questioning, printed yesterday. "I think we're going round in circles," concluded Blair. "No we're not," pleaded Walters, at which point the long-sought interview ends.

Star turns

WASHINGTON D.C. has had a double dose of the Mills family this week. Yesterday evening, Hayley Mills, daughter of Sir John, performed for the capital's black-tied swingers in a gala performance of *The King and I* at the Kennedy Centre. Typical of the way they do things in Washington, the evening



Mother and child reunion: Hayley and Crispian Mills

started with supper at 5pm so that the power-playgoers could be in bed early for a good night's sleep before Monday morning. On Thursday night, by contrast, her son Crispian Mills had been playing downtown at the hip 9-30 Club with his rock band, Kula Shaker. Like all good long-haired pop stars, Crispian made sure he found time to see his mother.



Boris Johnson, the *Daily Telegraph* columnist and Conservative candidate for Chelmsford, has a nifty campaign greeting. "It's a lovely day," he tells voters, gripping them firmly by the hand and glancing skywards. "Don't let Labour spoil it."

P.H.S



KINGS OF THE BALKANS

AND IN COMING MILLENNIA

Yours faithfully,
JOHN POTTER
(Emeritus Fellow),
Wadham College, Oxford.
April 17.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 19: The Duke of York, Patron, Fight for Sight, this morning opened the OPTRAFAIR 97 Trade Exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 19: The Prince Edward, President, this evening attended a Reception followed by the premiere of *Wardhild* given by the National Youth Music Theatre in Peterborough Cathedral and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mr James Crowden).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 19: The Duke of Gloucester laid a wreath at a Service of Commemoration for Commonwealth Korean War Veterans, Kanyong. Later His Royal Highness attended a dinner for British

businessmen given by His Excellency Mr Stephen Brown (Her Majesty's Ambassador) and Mrs Brown at the British Embassy, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 20: A contingent of Queen's Scouts and holders of Scout Galantry Awards attending the National Scout Service in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, were inspected by The Queen in the Quadrangle of the Castle this afternoon.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 20: The Duke of Gloucester laid a wreath at the British Memorial and subsequently attended the Greater Valley Commemoration Service at Solihull. Later His Royal Highness opened the UKSTYLE Exhibition to mark the bicentenary of trade between Great Britain and Korea at the Jell Building, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Chancellor, University of London, will open the Library and Learning Resources Centre, Wye College, Wye, Ashford, Kent at 10.00 and as President, RedR - Engineers for Disaster Relief, will attend RedR Patrons Dinner, The Institution of Civil Engineers, 1-7 Great George Street, London SW1 at 7.30. Princess Alexandra will attend a Gala Fashion Show in aid of the Holly Lodge Centre at Drapers Hall, London EC2 at 7.15.

Service dinners

Movement Control Officers' Club Brigadier R.E. Raitz, Chief Executive of the Defence Transport and Movements Executive and President of the Movement Control Officers' Club, and Mrs Raitz were the principal guests at the annual ladies dinner of the club held on Saturday at the RAF Club Piccadilly.

No 619 Squadron RAF Wing Commander R.A. Milward presided at the annual reunion dinner on Saturday at the RAF Club Piccadilly.

Dinner

Garriek Club
Mr Ian Wallace was the guest of honour at the annual members dinner of the club held last night at the club. Mr Anthony Butcher, QC, presided and Mr Denis Richards also spoke.

School announcements

The Arts Educational School, Tring Park

The Summer Term begins today at The Arts Educational School, Tring Park, and Karen Fortune begins her term of office as Head Girl. The Music Showcase is on May 22 and 23, and Founders Day is July 5. Term ends with the Midsummer Ball on Friday, July 11.

Bedstone College

Bedstone College returns for the start of the Summer term today. Confirmation will take place on Friday, May 23, with the Right Rev. P. Goodrich, O.C. Bishop. Bedstone's Day is on June 7 and Speech Day will take place on June 14 when the Guest of Honour will be Dr John Rae with prizes presented by Mrs Rae. Half term is on Saturday, May 24, to Wednesday, May 28. The college will hold an Open Day on May 17 and term ends on Saturday, July 5.

Bromsgrove School

School convenes today for the summer term. The Concerto Concert will be held on Thursday, May 8. *Woman in Mind* will be performed in Routh Hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 30, May 1 and 2. Term ends with Commemoration Day on Saturday, June 28.

The Cheltenham Ladies' College

Term opens today at The Cheltenham Ladies' College. Half term is from 5.00pm on Friday, May 23 to Sunday, June 1, 1997. The Hon Jonathan Porritt will give the address at the College Service, which will take place at 10.00am on Sunday, April 27. In the Princess Hall, Professor Lisa Jardine will give a lecture entitled "What happened in Hamlet?" at 8.00pm and Cambridge on Wednesday, May 7, at 5.15pm. Confirmation by the Right Rev John Neale, Bishop of Bath and Wells, will take place in Cheltenham College Chapel at 11.00am on Saturday, May 10. The Guild Annual General Meeting will take place in Lower Hall at 10.00am on Saturday, May 17. Limited accommodation is available for those attending the full weekend's activities. The Guild Service will take place in the Princess Hall on Sunday, May 18, at 10.30am. The Preacher will be Mr John Tolpelt, MA, Headmaster of Rendcomb College. The Summer Concert will take place in the Princess Hall at

7.30pm on Friday, July 11. Mrs Ruth Deech, MA, Principal of St Anne's College, Oxford and Chairman of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority will be the Guest Speaker on Speech Day, Saturday, July 12. Term ends on Saturday, July 12. The Music Department Tour to St Benoit sur Loire, Verona and Venice departs on Monday, July 14, and returns Wednesday, July 23. The Hockey and Netball Tour to South Africa will take place from July 21 to August 9, 1997.

Cobham Hall

The Summer Term begins today at Cobham Hall. The new Guardian is Olivia Douse and the Deputy Guardians are Susan Price and Yuki Hayashi. Sixth Form Scholarships have been awarded to Hilary Smith-Spinks (Cobham Hall), Diana Dias-Ayestegui (St John's RC School, Gravesend), Belinda Gehrin (Rochester Grammar School) and Elizabeth Gibson (Walthamstow Hall, Sevenoaks). Junior Scholarships have been awarded to Hannah Chandler (Leighton Primary School), Laura Davidson (Edwards House School), Priya Kumar (Salford Prep School, Kings Lynn), Heather McLaughlin (New Ash Green Primary School), Hannah Paier (Gad's Hill School, Higham) and Katharine Turner and Sally Turner (The Banda School, Kenya). Elders' Day is on Saturday, May 10, when there will also be an Open Day for parents of prospective pupils. Festival Day and the Unicorn Ball are on Saturday, July 5. Term ends on Sunday, July 6.

Dulwich College

The Summer Term begins today. Richard Amiot continues as Captain of Cricket and Oliver Farley is Captain of Football. The Thursday Club will be addressed by Mr Ian Davidson, OBE, on May 1. Dr Bruce Smith, OBE, O.A. on May 8 and Mr Richard Searle on May 15. The Inspecting Officer at the Combined Cadet Force Annual General Inspection on May 6 will be Air Vice-Marshal the Venerable Laurence, Bishop of Exeter. The Chief, RAF, the Principal work at the Summer Concert in the Fairfield Hall on May 13 will be *Spring from The Seasons* by Haydn. The preacher at the Commemoration Service in Chapel on Sunday, June 22, will be the Rev Canon Colin Fletcher. On June 28 the Madrigal

Choir will sing Solemn Mass and Choral Evensong at the Glastonbury Pilgrimage. Founder's Day is July 5. Dulwich will host the Cricket Festival for Downside, RGS Lancaster and Strathallan July 7-9. Half Term is May 24 to June 1 and term ends on July 10.

Heston Place School

Summer term starts today at Heston Place School. This day also commemorates the birth of Friedrich Froebel (1782-1852) upon whose principles the school was founded in 1894. Speech Day is on July 3, 1997, when Old Institution and journalist the Hon Nigel Lawson will be our principal guest. Topping Out Ceremony of the new Froebel Kindergarten, Priestman House, will take place on April 29 and open in September.

Lady Eden's School

Summer Term begins today. Headgirl is Emily Rees-Jones. The 50th Anniversary Reception will be held at Claridge's on June 5. (Tickets £15.00 from: The Organising Secretary, 41 Victoria Road, London, W8 5RU). Open Day at the School, June 23, and Sports Day, Batterssea Park, July 7. Prizesgiving and Speech Day, Town Hall Kensington, July 9. Guest Speaker Mrs Richard Fallowfield (Miss Eden). Term ends July 9.

The Mall School, Twickenham

The Mall School celebrates the 125th anniversary of its foundation this year. Events to be held include the Old Mallian Dinner at the Naval Club on Friday, April 25, the Anniversary Ball at Hampton Court Garden Room on Friday, May 16, a Charity Afternoon on Monday, July 7, and Commemoration Day on Friday, July 11. The Thistlethwaite Building, comprising two Science Labs and the Music Department, will be opened later in the year. For further information please contact tel: 0181-477 2533.

Merchant Taylors' School

Summer term at Merchant Taylors' School begins today, and ends on Thursday, July 3. Inspection Day is on Friday, May 9, and the Inspecting Officer will be Brigadier P.P. Rawlings, Royal Anglian Regiment. Open Morning is on Saturday, May 17, and St Barnabas (Prizesgiving) is on Saturday, May 31. Keith Fowler is Captain of Cricket, OMT Day is on Sunday, June 22, and Music Week begins

on June 25, with Summer Service at 8.00pm on Tuesday, July 1. The School has charity status and exists for the education of children. Registered charity no 240018.

Moira House, Eastbourne

Summer Term begins today and ends on Saturday, July 5. Mrs Ann Harris, BEd(Hons), ARCM, has been appointed Principal in succession to Adrian Underwood. Adrian Underwood has served Moira House as Headmaster for 22 successful and committed years, during which the school has grown from 140 to over 300 pupils. He has both upheld the philosophy of the founders and enhanced the reputation of the school nationally and internationally. The Governors are delighted that Adrian Underwood has accepted the post of Bursar in succession to Christopher Warren who is moving to Lord Wandsworth College as Bursar after 7 years devoted and admired service. The new School Knights (Head Girls) are Katie Clark (formerly of Slippers Hill School) and Christina Garrett (formerly of Rosemead School, Dulwich). The new Standard Bearers (Prefects) are Lisa Benson (formerly of Moira House Junior School), Miruna Canagaratnam (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Sarah-Jane Cluse (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Justine Cordingley (formerly of Peponi House, Kenya), Eileen Howe (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Theresa McGhee (formerly of Moira House Junior School), Helen McTeer (formerly of Rosemead School, Dulwich), Philippa (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Elizabeth Richardson (formerly of St Andrew's School, Eastbourne), Belinda Samy (formerly of Claremont School), and the new partner school Gymnasium Lohne will be from April 23 to May 5. Founders' Day and the Moira House Old Girls' Club Reunion is on Saturday, June 28, when the Guest Speakers will be Frances Line, OBE, and Mr James Lloyd.

Whitlam Hall School

The Governing Board is pleased to announce the appointment of David and Sarah Teller to the Headship of Whitlam Hall Preparatory School with effect from September 1997.

Birthdays today

The Queen celebrates her 75th birthday today.

Mrs Angela Barrett, tennis champion, 65; Professor Gerald Benney, goldsmith and silversmith, 67; Mr J.W. Bruce, director-general of the RNIB, 52; Sir George Burton, former chairman, Fisons, 81; Mr Laurence Ellis, former Rector, Edinburgh Academy, 65; Mr Robin Gourlay, chairman, Anglian Water, 58; Mr J.M. Greenwood, former senior partner, Nabarro Nathanson, 62; Air Marshal Sir John Hunter-Tod, 81; Sir Robin Ibb, former chairman, Lloyds TSB Group, 71; Mr John McCabe, composer and concert pianist, 82; Dr Halldan Mahler, former secretary-general, International Planned Parenthood Federation, 74; Sir Geoffrey Palmer, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, 55; Mr Anthony Quinn, actor, 82; Sir Alexander Stone, lawyer and banker, 90; Major-General Sir John Swinton, Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire, 72; the Earl of Verulam, 46.



John Mortimer, QC, the author and barrister, is 74

Shropshire Lieutenantancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Shropshire: Mr George Raxter, of Telford; Mr Malcolm Gray Douglas Graham, of Bridgnorth; Mr Richard Charles Swallow, of Shrewsbury; Lord Kingsland, of Shrewsbury; Mr Anthony Hollings, of Rytton, near Dorrington.

Latest wills

George Ernest Hillyer Creber, retired chartered surveyor, of Mannamere, Plymouth, left estate valued at £1,493,857 net. Charles Christopher Payne, of Mundesley, Norfolk, left estate valued at £1,210,477 net. Walter Christie Steele, of Great Baddow, Chelmsford, left estate valued at £1,188,304 net. He left £1,000 to the ophthalmic unit of Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford. Aubrey Cyril Warshaw, of London SW6, left estate valued at £1,440,042 net. He left £1,000 to Jewish Care.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.J.R.C. Belton and Miss J.C.T. Deshon. The engagement is announced between David, son of Captain Christopher Belton, RN, of Midhurst, West Sussex, and of Mrs James Laybourne, of Ashdon, Hampshire, and stepson of Captain James Laybourne, RN, and Julia, daughter of the late Major Peter Deshon and of Mrs Peter Deshon, of Hartley Mauditt, Hampshire.

Mr C.A.D. Boyle

and Miss I. Stewart Forthbringham. The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs Paul Boyle, of Maltby Hall, Cumbria, and Iona, younger daughter of Robert Stewart Forthbringham, of Faurie, and the late Mrs Stewart Forthbringham.

Mr R.S.E. Brown

and Miss H.M. Launder. The engagement is announced between Robin Stuart Brown, only son of Commander and Mrs Michael Brown, of Combe Down, Bath, and Harriet May, younger daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel (Retd) and Mrs Nicholas Launder, of Peppard Common, Henley-on-Thames.

Mr J.M. Hudson

and Miss E.F. Hallett. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J. Hudson, of St Brade, Jersey, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.W. Hallett, of Longueville, Jersey.

Mr G.E. Pitt

and Miss A.J. Hoskyns. The engagement is announced between Guy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Pitt, of Long Melford, Suffolk, and Arabella, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Hoskyns, of Chiswick, London.

Mr J.C. Rodwell

and Miss C.S.S. Bevington. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Commander D.S. Rodwell, RN, and Mrs S.J. Rodwell, of Chichester, West Sussex. Catherine, daughter of Mr J.S. Bevington, of Hamby, France, and Mrs E. Burton, of Southbourne, Hampshire.

Marriage

Sir Derek Dodson and Mrs R. Mansouridis. The marriage took place in Athens, on Wednesday, April 16, 1997, between Sir Derek Dodson, of London, and Mrs Rania Mansouridis, nee Papadom, of Marousi, Athens.

Appointment

Mr Michael William Rapinet to be a full-time legal member of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal.

Nature notes appear on the facing page

Anniversaries

Henry VII, reigned 1485-1509. Richmond, Surrey, 1509; Jean Racine, dramatist, Paris, 1699; Mark Twain, writer, Redding, Connecticut, 1910; Manfred von Richthofen (the Red Baron), German air ace, shot down, 1918; Eleanor Duse, actress, Pittsburgh, 1924; Laurence Olivier, 1913-30; Churchill, 1903; John Maynard Keynes, Baron Keynes, economist, Tilton, Somerset, 1946; Sir Stafford Cripps, statesman, Zurich, 1952; Sir Edward Appleton, physicist, Nobel laureate, 1947, Edinburgh, 1965; Francois Duvalier, President of Haiti 1957-71, Port-au-Prince, 1971.

The city of Rome was founded by Romulus, 753 BC.

The Texans defeated Mexico at the Battle of San Jacinto, 1836.

Brasilia was inaugurated as the new capital of Brazil, 1960.

Chinese students poured into Beijing's Tiananmen Square, ignoring government warnings of severe punishment, 1989.

BIRTHS

CLACKSON - On March 21st to Rachel and Clive (nee Douglas), a son, Giles William Douglas.

HOLMES - On 16th April, a son to Bob and Angie, Harry John.

JACKSON - On April 18th to Karen (nee Foster) and Adam, a son, Daniel Robert.

KIRKWOOD - On April 10th, to John and Mary (nee O'Reilly), a son, James John.

LINDSAY - On 17th April 1997 to New York to Julie (nee Salony) and Tom Lindsay, a son, Courtney Travis Alexander.

MURPHY - On April 15th to Hong Kong to Linda (nee Clifford) and John, a daughter, Rebecca Elizabeth.

MURPHY - On 17th April 1997 to Owen (nee O'Brien) and Mary, a daughter, Rebecca Lucy, a son, Alexander.

TOWNSEND - On 16th April 1997, to the John Macdonald Hospital, Oxford, a son, Alexander (nee O'Brien) and Alan, a daughter, Chloe Alexandra.

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DEATHS

KARSTEN - Christopher on April 19, 1997, aged 44. Dandy below and son, Robert. Dandy below and son, Robert. Dandy below and son, Robert.

LLOYD - Edmund Edmund LVO. On April 18th, of Wellington Lodge, Wiltshire, and formerly of 18, Clarendon Road, Windsor. Cremation took place on Thursday 17th April, 1997, at 11.00am. Donations to the Royal United Medical Association, 6 Avenue Road, London W14 8NS.

MANN - Margaret Elizabeth (nee) on 18th April 1997, aged 84. Dandy below and son, Robert. Dandy below and son, Robert. Dandy below and son, Robert.

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OBITUARIES

STEPHAN HERMLIN

Stephan Hermlin, German author, died on April 6 aged 81. He was born on April 13, 1915.

Stephan Hermlin was a leading figure in the literary life of the German Democratic Republic throughout the 40 years of its artificial existence. A Communist by conviction, he never wavered in the beliefs he had formed as a teenager in Weimar Germany, when economic chaos and political confusion lent new urgency to questions about the relationship between life and letters.

Hermlin's enduring commitment both to party and state was rewarded with many honours and he was on friendly terms with East Germany's rulers, from Erich Honecker down. But, for all his willingness to celebrate Stalin, Hermlin was no mere party hack. If his political views were formed in the turbulent years between the First World War and the Nazi assumption of power, so too were his literary ideas.

To the writers in whose shadow Hermlin grew up, from the Expressionists to Brecht and Thomas Mann, social progress and artistic Modernism were not just compatible but inseparably linked. In a State which tended to favour the vulgar certainties of socialist realism in art, Hermlin was a prominent and consistent champion of Modernist ambiguity; and whether as writer, translator or polemicist — his voice was difficult to ignore. Sincere support for the Communist regime precluded neither private doubt nor public conflict. Furthermore, his convictions did not stop him writing in a way that owed more to the mainstream of the European literary tradition than to any ideological prescription.

Hermlin's best writing — refined, elegiac and spare — was as complex as his personality. The two, in fact, are closely interwoven, though not always in obvious ways. Resistance to Fascism is at the heart of Hermlin's work, and central to his oeuvre is a series of powerful and apparently autobiographical tales. The evoca-



tive pieces in the prose collection *Abendlicht* (Evening Light, 1979), especially, seem drawn directly from his own life and that of his family and fellow anti-Fascists. Yet the life they suggest turns out not quite to have been the life Hermlin lived, and when attention was drawn in 1996 to some serious discrepancies between mundane fact and heroic fiction, a notable scandal ensued.

Hermlin's reputation was undeniably diminished by those revelations, and there were those in the new Germany all too happy to see it so. But he found some prominent defenders, too, and the power of his best work owes nothing to his banal deceptions. He may not have lived quite as he liked to imagine, but his idealism was real, and his life was remarkable enough. He remains an

important figure among modern German writers. Stephan Hermlin was the pseudonym of Rudolf Leder, born to a Jewish family in Chemnitz. Hermlin's own version of his life, long accepted, gave him an English mother; in fact, she was from Galicia. His father, of Romanian stock, was interned as an enemy alien during the First World War, but went on to enjoy prosperity as a businessman

during the Weimar years of raging inflation. Hermlin may, however, have exaggerated his parents' wealth, perhaps to emphasise that he was a Communist by choice, not out of envy or class solidarity; a love of elegance stayed with him in later life, but in reality, the family fortunes seem to have fluctuated rather as they moved back and forth between Chemnitz and Berlin.

Hermlin's father did not die in a concentration camp, as was suggested, though he did spend six weeks in Sachsenhausen in 1938 before emigrating in 1939 to England; he died of liver cancer in London in 1947, his widow acquiring British citizenship the following year. The dangers and difficulties faced by the family under the Nazis were real, however. From an early age Hermlin himself had been active in the Communist youth movement, participating in street fights and other illegal activities. In 1933 he had to abandon his Gymnasium education and take up an apprenticeship as a printer.

His parents' efforts to get Hermlin and his siblings to safety bore fruit, and in 1936 he joined his brother and sister in Tel Aviv, where he worked as a bookseller for a while. He left Palestine for France in 1937, intending to fight with the International Brigade in Spain. But his health was too poor to permit the active service he later claimed.

On reaching Paris he worked with German opposition groups, then served with the French auxiliary forces and worked on the land until he was interned in 1942 and narrowly escaped deportation. In April 1943 he managed to escape to Switzerland, where his first volume of poems was published in 1945.

Those poems, and others in the collections that followed, dealt with the struggle against Fascism, of which the author's experience was recent and direct. But much of their interest derives from the tension between the vividness of their contemporary content and the melancholy refinement of their classical forms. Returning to Germany in

1945, Hermlin worked in the literary department of Radio Frankfurt. But in 1947 he left Adenauer's Germany for the Soviet-occupied zone, settling in East Berlin, where he joined the Communist Party (the SED) and worked as a writer and editor.

It was in his own work in these early years in East Germany that he came closest to the stereotype of official communist literature, writing poems in praise of Stalin, the October Revolution and the GDR's first president Wilhelm Pieck. But the writers he was translating even then — Shakespeare, Keats, Paul Eluard, Pablo Neruda, Louis Aragon, Robert Disneux — showed his preference for the products of an unfettered imagination. His radio play *Scardanelli* (1970) dealt with the madness of the poet Hölderlin, another figure whose place in the communist literary canon was far from secure.

The contradictions at the heart of Hermlin's work and private beliefs were equally apparent in some of his public pronouncements, as was his openness to new ideas. They brought him into increasingly frequent conflict with the regime. His own eminence gave him comparative security, but he showed repeated willingness to help writers less likely to be officially indulged. With Stefan Heym he led the protests at the expulsion from the country of the songwriter Wolf Biermann in 1970.

Many East German artists and intellectuals followed Biermann into exile, but Hermlin kept faith with the GDR to the end, and after its collapse he joined the PDS, post-communist successor to the SED. Although willing to admit mistakes, he continued to take pride in communism's achievements and was critical of the new, unified Germany, seeing in it a resurgence of the tendencies that had taken Germany into the abyss half a century before.

Stephan Hermlin's first wife died in France in 1941. He married his second wife, a Russian, in 1963. There was a daughter of the first marriage and a son of the second.

SHEILA ROTHWELL



Sheila Rothwell, director of the Centre for Employment Policy Studies at Henley Management College. 1979-86, died of cancer on April 4 aged 61. She was born on August 22, 1935.

SHEILA ROTHWELL made her name in the public domain as a leading pioneer for women's rights. She went on to become an authority on labour problems, industrial relations and resource management in general, with an international reputation in her field.

She was already a respected academic with some experience of industrial relations and women's issues when she joined the Equal Opportunities Commission on its foundation — shortly after the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act. She remained with the commission for about three years, at first running its small but influential London office — including the supervision of its press coverage — then moving to its Manchester headquarters as assistant chief executive.

In 1979, however, she moved to Henley as director of its Centre for Employment Studies — which over the next 17 years was to provide her with the perfect vehicle for her talents. A natural teacher and lecturer, she turned businesswoman from all over the world, while conducting her own research into the changing patterns of labour and personnel management.

She travelled extensively as her reputation grew, visiting all parts of Europe, India, the Seychelles and undertaking two extensive lecture tours of the United States. She also took on a number of other part-time jobs, including membership of Professor Bernard Williams's committee on obscenity and film censorship, 1978-79. In 1988 she was recruited by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service as an independent expert on equal pay. In 1988 she joined its panel of arbitrators and four years later was appointed deputy chairman of the central arbitration committee.

She joined the Social Democratic Party when it started and was at one time a parliamentary candidate but withdrew because she found it too time-consuming. Born Sheila Gwendoline Paine, she was the daughter of a bank official. She went from Wyggeston School, Leicester, to Westfield College, London, to read history, then to Cambridge for 12 months' teacher training.

After teaching briefly in opinion that electric ambulances should be provided throughout the metropolis, and they requested that communications conveying their views should be forwarded to the various authorities.

More than 80 years ago a London jury called for electric ambulances to be operated all over the metropolis. On which side of the Thames an emergency occurred could be vitally important.

Dr. Waldo held an inquest at Southwark on Saturday on the body of Stephen William Kitchener, a wood sawyer, 63, of High Street, Strandford. Evidence was given that Kitchener had apparently been in excellent health. On Wednesday morning he left home about 6 o'clock to go to his work in Bermondsey, and three-quarters of an hour later Police-constable Lewis, of the City Police, found him lying unconscious on the footway of Tower Bridge. An ambulance was procured and Kitchener was taken to Guy's Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The Coroner, Being on the City side of the bridge you had the advantage of an electric ambulance. You were able to telephone for it and the ambulance with assistants and all appliances, stimulants, and so forth, were on the scene in a very short period.

Lewis, Yes, within six or seven minutes, and Guy's Hospital was reached in eight or ten minutes.

The Coroner, That could not have been done if Kitchener had been found on the Southwark side of the bridge. If that had been the case it would have taken 20 minutes or half an hour to reach the hospital? - Yes.

Dr. Otzman, of Guy's Hospital, said death

SIR JOHN SUMMERFIELD

Sir John Summerfield, CBE, former Chief Justice of the Cayman Islands died on April 4 aged 76. He was born on September 20, 1920.

JOHN SUMMERFIELD was chief justice in Bermuda in the 1970s when the island was shocked by a sequence of brutal murders, including that of the governor Sir Richard Sharples. As he was next on the assassin's hit list, he stood aside from the trial in which two men were charged (and acquitted) of the 1973 shooting of Sharples and his ADC, a young Welsh Guards officer. But he presided at a later, separate hearing when the same two men were convicted of killing two supermarket managers, and sentenced to death.

When he left Bermuda in 1977 to take up a similar post in the Cayman Islands, the *Baltimore Sun* reported his appointment with relief. The prospect of a "hanging judge", it said, was welcome for the security of the Caymans and their burgeoning financial business.

In fact the unsought title hardly did justice to the judge. Summerfield had passed the only sentence open to him in cases of capital murder in Bermuda. Nor did his interpretation of Cayman law always endear him to Washington during the next 10 years.

Resisting pressure from the US Inland Revenue for instance, he upheld the strict privacy code of the Cayman banks when applications were

made through the courts for information on American tax payers. A treaty was finally signed, however which guaranteed co-operation between Britain, the USA and the Cayman Islands in cases involving drug runners and other criminals bent on laundering their money.

Summerfield had acquired his experience the hard way. As a young Crown counsel in Tanganyika nearly 50 years ago, he would accompany a judge, a defence lawyer and a safari box of supplies, on circuit into the interior, to try cases in remote corners of the bush. An open-sided thatched hut served as a courtroom, dignified by a Union Jack hanging from a pole and a portrait of the King nailed to the post inside. There in the shimmering heat of the African morning, they dispensed His Majesty's justice in the presence of three village elders and an interpreter.

Some of the cases they dealt with involved the "Lion Murders", an infamous series of killings inspired by witch doctors, so-called because the assassins were dressed in lion skins.

In Dar-es-Salaam itself, Summerfield once successfully prosecuted Julius Nyerere for libelling a district officer. Many years later in London he met up again with Nyerere, by this time president of independent Tanzania.

Nyerere greeted him like an old friend.

John Cranpton Summerfield was no stranger to East Africa. The son of an accountant (who died young from

asthma) he was himself born in Nairobi — although educated in England at Lucan School, Herefordshire.

He went into the Army straight from school and served throughout the Second World War as a cipher officer in the Royal Corps of Signals. In East Africa, Abyssinia, Somaliland and Madagascar, Denisbilled in 1946, he then read for the Bar and was called by Gray's Inn in 1949.

Joining the colonial legal service, he left shortly afterwards for Tanganyika where he was promoted from Crown counsel to legal draftsman in 1953. Five years later he returned to Nairobi as deputy legal secretary in the East Africa High Commission.

Summerfield left Africa in 1962 to take up the post of Attorney-General in Bermuda. He took silk in the following year and became chief justice in 1972. He also served on the island's Legislative and Executive Councils between 1962 and 1968, resigning under the terms of the new constitution which he had himself helped to shape at the 1967 constitutional conference in London.

By 1977 he felt that it was time for a local man to succeed him and left for the Cayman Islands. But he did not entirely sever his links with Bermuda. While chief justice in the Caymans, he also became a justice of appeal for Bermuda, as well as a judge of the Court of Appeal in Belize.

By the time Summerfield retired in 1987, he had done much to raise the status of the judiciary in the Caymans.



following the islands' sudden expansion as an off-shore financial centre and rich man's playground. A tall, dignified presence of unquestionable integrity, he soon made clear his zero tolerance of wrongdoers. But if he was firm, he was also fair and was famous

for his courtesy in court — not only to the most junior bar but equally to those in the dock.

He was known for his kindness, especially in the less formal family courts — where he often conducted adoption applications with the children on his lap.

Nature notes

THE first cuckoos are back: they look like bluish-grey hawks but have a distinctive flight, never bringing their wings above the horizontal. A few swallows have also returned, screaming over the rooftops, but it will be May before the main body of them are back in Britain. Some robins and blackbirds nested very early this year, and the first fledglings are beginning to build their nests in gorse and bramble bushes: the male sits stinging on a high spray while the female adds a grass stalk or a feather, then they both fly off rapidly together.

Bluebells are coming out, but most of them are only partly unfurled, and it will be another week before they form their carpets of blue in the woods. Along roadside banks

there are clumps of greater stitchwort, or bachelor's buttons: the flowers have five white, notched petals, while the stalks and leaves are thin and tangled. Many trees already have thick foliage, and the buds of oak and ash are beginning to split. Speckled wood butterflies are appearing in woodland glades. They emerge from chrysalids hanging in the grass, and fly low with dappled wings. DJM



The Linnet

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Humphrey Southern, Vicar, Hale, and Diocesan Ecumenical Officer (Guildford): to be Team Rector, Hale

Badshot Lea, same diocese.
The Rev Christopher Stier, Bishop of Blackburn's Domestic Chaplain: to be Vicar, St Mary and All Saints, Whitley and Warden of Whalley Abbey (Blackburn).

The Rev Cristina Sumners, Assistant Chaplain to King Edward School, Witley: to be Assistant Curate (NSM), Holy Trinity, Guildford (Guildford).

The Rev Susan Turner, Assistant Chaplain, Withington Hospital, South Manchester NHS Trust: to be Chaplain, Burnley Healthcare NHS Trust (Blackburn).
The Rev Neil Turpin, Rector, Frimley: to be also Rural

Dean of Surrey Heath (Guildford).

The Rev Philip Venter, NSM, St Barnabas, Bethnal Green (London): to be Assistant Chaplain in Armenia and Georgia and the Archbishop's Apokrisarios to the Catholics of All Armenians (Europe).

The Rev Sheila Watson, formerly Senior Selection Secretary, Advisory Board of Ministry, Church House, Westminster, and Honorary Assistant, Chelsea Parish Church, St Luke and Christ Church (London): now Adviser in Continuing Ministerial Education (Salisbury).

The Rev David Bengt, Vicar, St Leonard, Booter: to be Curate, St Peter and St Paul, Kirkcaldy, with special responsibility for Latham Park Chapel (Liverpool).

THE NEED FOR ELECTRIC AMBULANCES

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ON THIS DAY

April 21, 1913

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opinion that electric ambulances should be provided throughout the metropolis, and they requested that communications conveying their views should be forwarded to the various authorities.

MANAGEMENT OF A HOSPITAL

The inquiry into the charges of alleged mismanagement at York County Hospital was continued at York on Saturday by Sir Cooper Perry, M.D., of Guy's Hospital. The charges were brought by Dr. Macqueen and Dr. Shepherd, ex-resident medical officers of the institution.

Dr. Gayer, of the honorary medical staff, who last October conducted an inquiry into the case of the man Collier who, it was alleged, was removed to the mortuary when still alive, said that, with a view to preventing any such incident in the future, a new rule had been adopted which provided that no certificate should be given in respect of a death without inspection of the body; and that the final stage of laying-out should not be begun until one hour after the entry of the death in the report book. The Commissioner reminded the witness that the day sister had written a ticket that the man died at 7.30, while they had it in evidence that the night sister had actually been spoken to by Collier at 7.40.

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NEWS

Tory fightback undermined

John Major's attempt to launch a fightback as the general election entered its last ten days was undermined by a public clash between Cabinet ministers over Europe and growing speculation about a post-election Tory leadership contest.

As Mr Major prepared today to turn the spotlight away from Europe and back on to education, Kenneth Clarke directly contradicted Michael Howard's claim that the Amsterdam summit in June could threaten Britain's future as a nation state. **Page 1**

Major offers to advise Blair

John Major has offered to give Tony Blair frank and private advice on how to handle negotiations in the European Union. In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Major nonetheless says he is confident of winning the election. **Pages 1, 9**

Long-range forecast

The long-term weather forecast is freezing, but global warming will give us at least a thousand years of Mediterranean weather first. **Page 1**

Terrorist plot

Police in Northern Ireland have uncovered detailed plans by loyalist terrorists to murder civil servants at the Anglo-Irish secretariat. **Page 2**

Family attacked

A woman and her two young children covered in terror as animal welfare protesters attacked their home. **Page 3**

Scratchcard relaunch

The National Lottery is to relaunch scratchcards after sales dropped to £14 million in the first week of April. **Page 5**

Propaganda for sale

Government propaganda films are to be marketed by a private company. **Page 6**

Milk of kindness

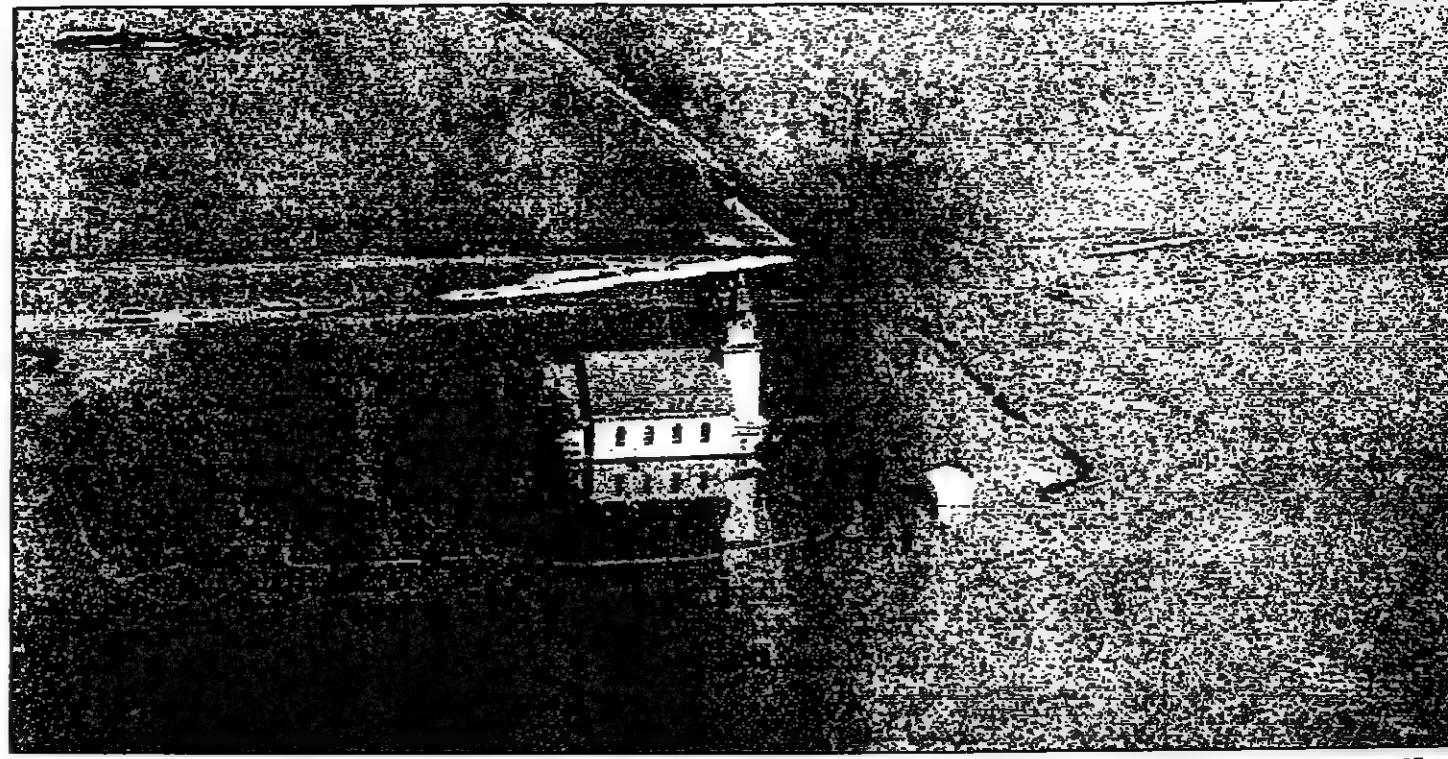
The fully automated milking parlour, in which cows come to be milked when the urge takes them, is about to change the face of dairy farming. **Page 7**

Not so friendly fire

Tony Blair was riddled by political friendly fire when *The New Yorker*, supposedly an admirer, ripped into his "magisterial vacuity". **Page 10**

Eels get that sinking feeling

Depressed eels are to have their problems examined in a £1 million project organised by the European Commission. Eel farmers have found that the creatures, one of the most expensive delicacies, are turning listless and sinking to the bottom of their tanks. It is thought that attempts to maximise the market have caused stress. **Page 7**



A church north of Fargo, North Dakota, is isolated after the Red River, swollen by melted snow, burst its banks. Report, page 15

BUSINESS

Unco-operative: Andrew Regan hopes to have his £1.1 billion hostile bid for the Co-Operative Wholesale Society ready this week. **Page 52**

Share alert: CrestCo, the new paperless share-dealing settlement system, said it is reasonably confident that it can cope with today's flood of new equity from the £2.8 billion Alliance & Leicester demutualisation. **Page 52**

Halifax row: The Halifax Action Group will mount a protest at today's annual meeting of the Halifax Building Society, its last before its £10 billion stock market flotation. **Page 49**

Advertising split: Cordiant will unveil plans today to break itself into two separately quoted advertising agencies. **Page 52**

ARTS

Winning ways: Melvyn Bragg is impressed by the new wave of young British designers, artists and film-makers who have made a plaything of highly advanced technology. **Page 20**

Moor, please: Vladimir Bogachov makes a triumphant return to the title role of Verdi's *Otello* at Covent Garden, in Elijah Moshinsky's world-class production. **Page 20**

Boose man: The tribute to Antonio Carlos Jobim at the Barbican confirmed that his music is to our era what George Gershwin's was to an earlier generation. **Page 20**

Lloyd's risks: Plays are much more difficult to direct than operas, says Phyllida Lloyd. But she thrives on danger, as the cast of Lorca's *Doña Rosita* are finding out. **Page 21**

FEATURES

Hip to be hitched: What have Liam Gallagher and Superman got in common? Marriage, that's what. Suddenly, it is no longer cool to cohabit. Joe Joseph, Barry Turner and Tania Kindersley investigate why marriage is making a comeback. **Pages 18, 19**

MIND AND MATTER

Face value: Anjana Ahuja examines a new technique using laser technology that enables facial structure to be mapped. It helps doctors to treat deformities and accident victims. **Page 17**

Roots of disease: Evidence is mounting that diseases of the mouth can greatly increase the risk of deadlier afflictions, such as heart disease. **Page 17**

TOMORROW

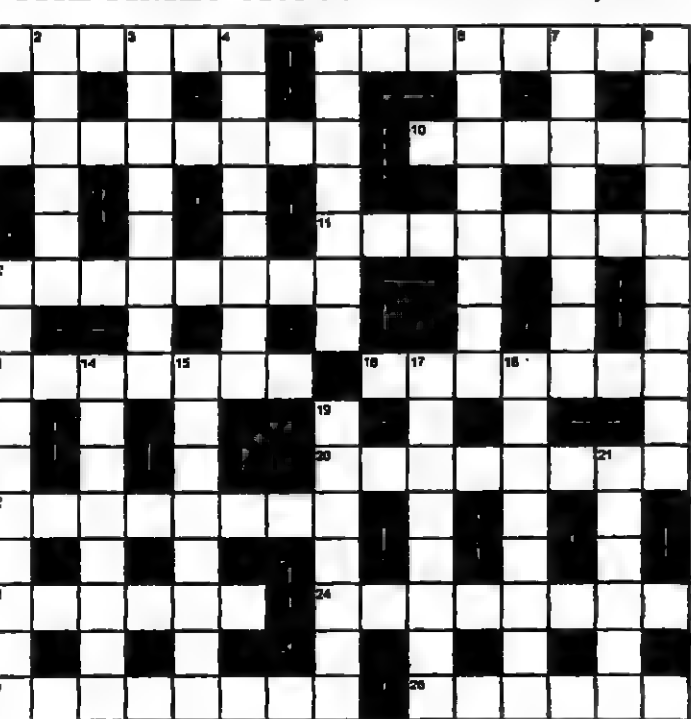
IN THE TIMES

ARTS
How Hitchcock's haunting movie *Vertigo* was restored to dizzy heights

LAW
The men and women who will fill the top legal posts if Labour forms the next government



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,459



- ACROSS**
- Amusing theatrical cat put on beard (6).
 - Bob makes a weighty contribution to its timely regulation (8).
 - Terrible place the governor will shortly fix (4-4).
 - Demanded a collection of books within a day (6).
 - Singer in church finally switched line (8).
 - Cocaine found by sink in plant (8).
 - Drama writer's enclosure for issue (4-3).
 - Having an inclination for giving presents (7).
 - One watching card-game in centre of New York city (8).
 - Denial made when diplomatic mission changes head (8).
 - One demonstrated a substance used in making dyes (6).
- DOWN**
- Tramp pays to enter (8).
 - He finds points covered by a surgeon (8).
 - Collected daughter brought forward in sitting (6).
 - Peacekeepers still in uniform? On the contrary (6).
 - Entering Irish county, see Scottish cow (8).
 - Licentious country person initially unpunished (4-4).
 - Appropriate homework absorbing half of them? Exactly! (3-4).
 - Swift post in Dublin, for example (8).
 - Scholars collected American volume at one (8).
 - One whose projected aspersions may stick? (10).
 - Regularly occurring game mostly held in part of plant (10).
 - Growth in Worthing, for example — right now, too! (8).
 - Like a Terrier, leave before end of drinking period (4-4).
 - State of the Italian floor-covering one's put down (8).
 - Applied leverage to secure honest pledge (8).
 - Pine, possibly, for nice resort (7).
 - Attendant in Paris is carrying French horn (6).

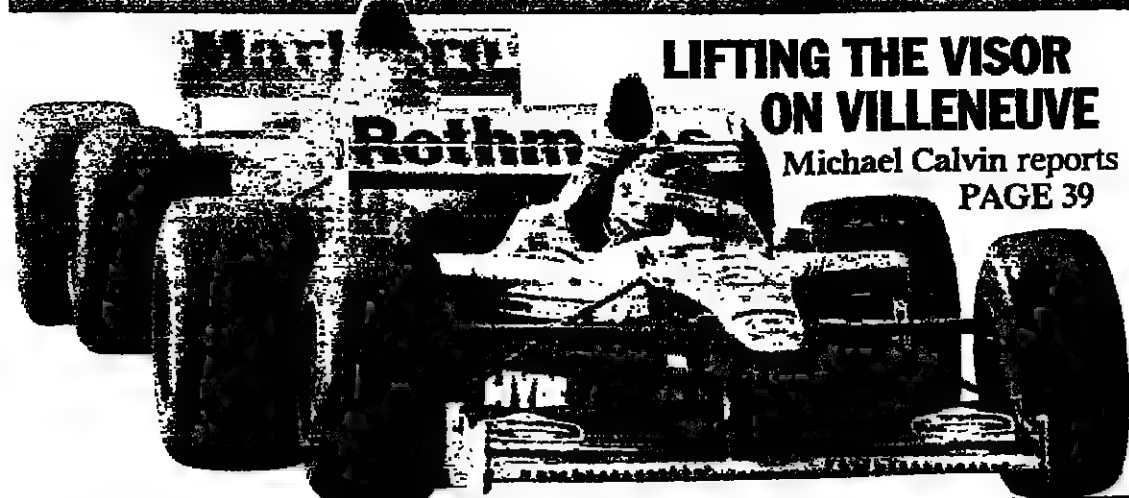
The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,458 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 52

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0330 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0330 401 450
Ireland 0330 401 746
PS2 and Link Roads 0330 401 747
National Motorways 0330 401 748
Channel crossing 0330 401 749
Motorway to Motorway 0330 401 750
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TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT SUMMER OF SPORT



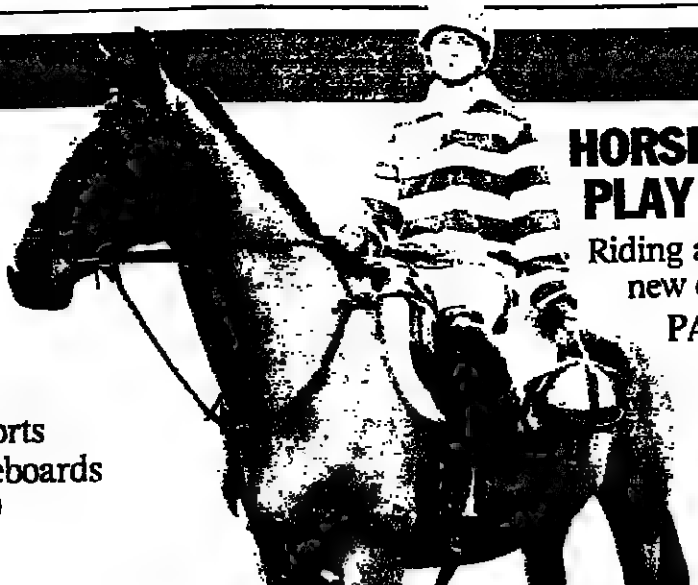
LIFTING THE VISOR ON VILLENEUVE

Michael Calvin reports
PAGE 39

YOUTHFUL APPEAL

England hopefuls
make an
impression
at Edgbaston

PLUS Reports
and scoreboards
PAGE 29



HORSE PLAY

Riding a
new craze

PAGE 37

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 21 1997

DEMONS RETURN TO TORMENT: LIVERPOOL GOALKEEPER



James stands alone in front of banks of Manchester United supporters after one of his errors helped the champions towards victory and, probably, another Premiership title. Photograph: Marc Aspland

James goes from Tomb to doom

Oliver Holt on an England player
undermined by loss of confidence

When his torment was just beginning David James could still see the lighter side. He blamed the three goals that he let in against Newcastle United at the beginning of last month on lapses of concentration caused by his addiction to video games such as Tomb Raider. Six weeks further on his season has descended into a series of ghastly tales from the crypt.

His suffering has become such that discussion of Liverpool's defeat by Manchester United on Saturday, the loss that effectively handed the FA Carling Premiership title to United, has been distilled into an examination of two more mistakes by James.

Exposed by the failings of his defence, and particularly Mark Wright, he was powerless to prevent Gary Pallister's first goal thudding into the back of his net. Later in the first half he produced a fine save from Johnsen, but then,

seconds later, rushed from his goal to try to punch away a corner only to see it flicked past him by Pallister.

Later in the first half he brought back memories of the more eccentric moments of his predecessor, Bruce Grobbelaar, when he rushed out of his area to try to clear a bouncing through ball and, hopelessly committed, ended up heading thin air. He escaped, but worse was to come.

So inept was his attempt to push Gary Neville's high, swirling cross out of the path of Andy Cole, a failure that led directly to United's third and decisive goal in their 3-1 victory, that the notion of collective responsibility for such a critical and crushing defeat has been discarded in deference to a tirade of criticism against one man.

The next blow to his confidence may come today when Glenn Hoddle names his squad for England's World Cup match against Georgia on April 30, although Roy Evans,



After abandoning video games such as Tomb Raider, left, and Tekken 2, right, James has fallen on hard times, as in Paris earlier this month



his manager at Anfield, said that he hoped that James would keep his place. "They don't want to knock him down further," he said.

He had already been branded "James the Worst" after his faltering performance against Paris Saint-Germain in the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final first leg ten days ago and

yesterday he was treated to more of the same. "Calamity James", two newspapers labelled him. "Jessie James" was the version of the one that called him a "cowboy keeper".

The United supporters standing behind the goal where he committed his final faux pas were just as cruel, of course. "David James, super-

star," they sang amid their triumphant laughter, "drops more balls than Grobbelaar." When they grew tired of that, they yelled "doggy keeper" at him over and over again.

James's troubles began early in March when Newcastle United visited Anfield. He had been in such superb form all season that he had forced

himself into the England reckoning and Hoddle had come to watch him. Liverpool won a thrilling match 4-3, but James was at fault for all the Newcastle goals.

Five days later James dropped a free kick away at Nottingham Forest and Ian Woan scored to give his struggling team a draw. James was

still selected to play for England against Mexico last month, but, although he kept a clean sheet, he made a hash of several catches.

Then, against Coventry City at Anfield a week later, he rushed out of his goal to try to catch a corner and could only watch as Dion Dublin gave Coventry a shock win. Four

days after that he was to blame for two of the three goals that have given Paris such a commanding advantage in the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final.

Alan Hansen, the former Liverpool defender who played for so long in front of Grobbelaar, said on Saturday night that he thought James should be dropped. "He is transmitting his uncertainty to the rest of the defence," he said. The problem is that James has been an ever-present in the side for more than two years and Tony Warner, his understudy, is untried.

"In the last two games, I thought he had come out of it," Evans said, "but, as a goalkeeper, when every mistake you make seems to end up in the back of the net, it is difficult. Let's not forget that, for eight months of the season, he was fantastic. You ask other goalkeepers and they will put him up there with the best. It is a matter of now working at his game and keeping at it. It is not a time to go and hide."

Riverside tale, page 30
United triumph, page 31
Steve McManaman, page 31
Rangers wait, page 33

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Scots put accent on memorable soundbites

For the first time in his Sky Sports life, Richard Keys was in danger of underselling an event. "It won't decide where the title is going, but we will have a better idea afterwards." It was accurate rather than memorable and, after a brief flurry of early commercials, somebody decided that Keys could probably do better. "This is it, the one we have all been waiting for — it's a must-win for Liverpool, it would be a great win for Manchester United." That was more like it — more like Sky anyway.

The morning kick-off that caused havoc with so many domestic arrangements also caused trouble for the satellite broadcaster. Normally, it prides itself on opening up a good hour before kick-off, on giving the sort of comprehen-

sive build-up that its terrestrial rivals never have time for. On Saturday, with its morning schedules packed with immovable regulars, Sky had 15 minutes. It was just like watching the BBC.

In fact, it was very like watching the BBC. Sometimes Sky runs into trouble with its policy of having studio guests chosen for their allegiances rather than their eloquence, but for Liverpool v Manchester United, you do not have to look too hard for former players who qualify, more or less, on both counts. Emyln Hughes and Steve Bruce duly cantered through the necessary talking points — Schmeichel's return, Fowler's sending off, James's form — but categorically refused to agree with Keys's somewhat disingenuous contention that



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

the championship was still open whatever the result. No, said Hughes, who clearly thought his flagging media profile could be rescued by being forthright: "If United win, it's all over." The rather more amenable Bruce agreed. Keys looked rather disappointed and understandably so. Having the FA Carling Premiership decided on the final day of the season has been big box office for Sky in recent years.

Typically, it was Andy Gray

who came up with the moment of instant history: "I think we've just seen the mistake that has handed the title to Manchester United," he announced, as Andy Cole celebrated his good fortune and the Sky director searched for more crowd shots. Typically, because Scottish summarisers are on something of a roll at the moment, Gray had Saturday morning. Alan Hansen had two bites at Saturday evening and who should pop up alongside Rob Hawthorne

for the Auto Windscreens Shield final on Sky Sports 3 yesterday afternoon, but Alan Brazil.

The question is, is this because they were all great players, or is it — as William McIlvanney (brother of Hugh) put it a few weeks ago — because of the unique ability of the Scottish accent to make ordinary sentences sound memorable, to add urgency and authoritative conviction to almost anything? Anyone in any doubt only had to listen to Barry Fry's characteristically pithy comments at Wembley yesterday. "What do you think of it?" he was asked. "Not much."

Hansen and Fry combined to similar comic effect in *The Sock Race* on Saturday night, in which Hansen looked at the stresses of football manage-

ment and Fry shouted "Oooh on the far post!" a lot and talked about the problems of having to remortgage his house whenever his club was in trouble.

This was a lightweight but enjoyable treatment of a subject that could have sustained a more serious approach. Hansen had called in favours from new and old friends alike and the likes of Ruud Gullit, Kenny Dalglish, Graeme Souness and Bobby Robson duly rolled up and told us... virtually nothing that we did not know already. In the case of Dalglish and Souness, two men who surely know more about the stress of management than anyone, that was unforgivable. Of Kevin Keegan, the third former Liverpool player to know all about high anxiety, there was no sight.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Kocinski closes in on superbike title

JOHN KOCINSKI, of America, tightened his grip on the superbike world championship with a victory and a second place in the second round of the series in San Marino yesterday. Kocinski, riding a Castrol-Honda, lost out to Pier Francesco Chili, of Italy, in the opening race, but dominated the second race and now has a 14-point advantage over Carl Fogarty, of Great Britain, who had to settle for third place in each race.

Michael Doohan maintained his 100 per cent start to the new season by winning the 500cc Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka. Doohan, who won the opening race of the season in Malaysia last week, led a clean sweep by the Honda works team on its home track. Alex Criville, of Spain, finished second with Tadayuki Okada, of Japan, third.

Bedfordshire win title

NETBALL: England captains, past and present, loomed large in the English counties league first division title race, with a former holder of the post, Kendra Slawinski, steering Bedfordshire, to a surprise championship win. Essex Metropolitan, meanwhile, captained by Fiona Murlagh, Slawinski's successor, were nudged into second position, with Middlesex third. In the second division, Kent took the title while third-division honours went to Durham North. Gloucestershire and Hertfordshire are relegated from the first division, while West Yorkshire and Lancashire drop out of the second division. Tables, page 38.

Ward goes unrewarded

BOWLS: Bill Ward, from the Avon Valley club, took part in two national indoor championships at the weekend with limited success. Avon Valley failed to reach the mixed fours quarter-finals at York, an event won by Boston, and Ward then partnered his son, Nick, at the father and son pairs event in Camberley, where they were defeated by Jim and Daran O'Toole, of Wey Valley, the eventual winners.

Yates at the double

CYCLING: Sean Yates underlined his blistering form since he retired from continental racing to compete in British time trials again with two victories over the weekend (Peter Bryan writes). He has seven wins from seven starts and yesterday set a record of 51min 51sec in the Elite CC 25 mile event. On Saturday, he won the West Kent ten miles trial in 20min 22sec. Matthew Illingworth was second in both trials.

Arsenal back on top

FOOTBALL: Arsenal went back to the top of the women's premier league with a 4-1 win over Everton yesterday. The victory means that Arsenal, back in front on goal difference, will be close to securing the championship if they defeat Liverpool next Sunday. Broadhurst scored twice, with Arsenal's other goals coming from Yankie and White. Marley scored for Everton.

Close shave for Jansher

SQUASH: Jansher Khan fought back from two match-balls down in the third game to clinch a thrilling *Mutualité Français* Tour title against Rodney Eyles, of Australia, in Bordeaux. The world champion clinched the tie break and went on to defeat Eyles, the world No 2, 12-15, 11-15, 15-14, 15-4, 15-4. It was the closest Eyles has been to Jansher since beating him in the Hong Kong Open final last September.

Gold goes to Sweden

CURLING: Sweden beat Germany 6-3 to take the gold medal in the men's final at the world curling championships in Berne yesterday. A double take-out across the length of their "house" for four shots at the seventh end gave victory to the Swedes. Scotland won the bronze by beating Canada in the ninth end.

Krajicek starts engine

TENNIS: Richard Krajicek, the Wimbledon champion, overcame frustration with the quality of his service to beat Lionel Roux, of France, 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 in the final of the Japan Open in Tokyo yesterday. "My service is the engine of my game," Krajicek said. In the women's singles final, Ai Sugiyama, of Japan, beat Amy Frazier 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

GOLF

Cage holds his nerve to emerge victorious

FROM MEL WEBB IN CANNES

A LESSER man might have buckled under the strain, but they breed them tough in Yorkshire and Stuart Cage, son of Leeds, was not for breaking. There were a couple of bursts of extraordinary scoring from down the field in the final round of the Cannes Open yesterday and pressure, too, from more obvious quarters at the top of the leaderboard, but Cage repelled them all to win with a total of 270, 14 under par.

Cage, 23, had a closing 66 to become the fourth first-time winner on the PGA European Tour this season. He beat Paul Broadhurst and David Carter by five strokes and Jamie Spence and Paul Eales by six.

One of two unexpected challenges came from Spence, who had a 61, ten under par, but was denied a course record by

nament not knowing how he would perform after his long lay-off caused by a brain virus. He was found in a Dubai hotel by two fellow players and had to have fluid drained from his skull. Even now, he suffers from impaired short-term memory. "It's a miracle I'm even alive," he said. "To come here and shoot another 62 is unbelievable. I'm ecstatic."

Cage, meanwhile, was blissfully unmoved by all the emotion with which the environs of Royal Mougins were awash. He had a job to do and, apart from a couple of bogeys on the 7th and 9th, he was calmness personified. He was the only man in the field to break 70 in all four rounds and was not headed for the last 38 holes.

The former Walker Cup man has had an undistinguished season — before this tournament, he had played eight times, missed five cuts, withdrew with a stomach bug in the South African Open and finished tied for 29th and 37th in the other two.

That is hardly the form of a man who had taken this tournament by the scruff of the neck before the weekend arrived. He must have been wondering when he came to France this week when, and even how, he was going to pull a decent finish out of the bag. When was yesterday, how was a mixture of straight driving, accurate long-run play and a dead aim on and around the greens.

Cage, the English Amateur champion in 1992, could not have hoped for a better start. He had three birdies in the first six holes to lead by four shots. The defining moment of the whole day might have been the 7th, when Eales, playing with Cage in the last group, made a birdie putt and Cage dropped a shot. The two-stroke swing put Eales within two of the leader.

But the moment soon passed and, although Broadhurst and Eales were briefly one shot behind, when Cage let another shot slip away on the 9th, his inward half was an object lesson in coolness under fire. Four times — on the 10th, 12th, 15th and 16th — he sank putts for birdies.

"It's like a dream come true," he said. He was right — dreams do not come much better than this.



Cage, the winner by five shots in Cannes, drives an iron down the fairway at the 2nd yesterday

SWIMMING: ERROR ON ENTRY FORM PROVES TO BE COSTLY FOR BRITON

Smith denied golden opportunity

FROM CRAIG LORD
IN GOTTENBURG

JAMES HICKMAN had already secured one bonus, £5,000 from a sponsor, for winning the 200 metres butterfly title, Britain's first, at the world short-course championships here on Saturday. Yesterday, he celebrated by becoming the first Englishman to swim inside two minutes over the 200 metres medley, his time 59.49sec placing him fourth in a closing session that saw Mark Foster win a silver medal and Susan Rolph add bronze medals to the British tally.

It could scarcely have been a more successful weekend for Dave Calleja, the Stockport coach of Hickman and Smith

— who could have been wearing his own gold medal if British swimming officials had paid more attention to the conditions of entry for the championships.

Smith finished third in the 1,500 metres freestyle in 14mins 46.85sec, a time he recorded several hours before the final heat of what was a heat-declared-winner event. An Olympic bronze medal winner last year over 1,500 metres, Smith had been forced to swim in a slow heat in the morning instead of the last heat in the evening because his only short-course swim this winter was a slow effort last December. Had he not swum that race, he could have entered with a converted long-course time and would have been placed in the later heat

last night, with Grant Hackett, of Australia, who won in 14min 39.54sec.

"I blame myself. I should have checked the entry form," Calleja said. Smith blamed "well-paid British officials" who "should have looked after our interests". The swimmer, who would also have earned a sponsor's £5,000 bonus had he won the gold, added: "There was just no one to race in the morning."

The British successes were accompanied by the frustration of knowing that had Foster, the silver medal-winner in the 50 metres freestyle, and Rolph, the bronze medal-winner in the 200 metres medley, found their best form, they would be world champions.

As it was, Foster lost out to

Francisco Sanchez, of Venezuela, in a battle of stamina and strength. Foster, the 1993 champion, had a powerful edge over Sanchez, the winner last year and in 1995, at the halfway point of the two-length race, but Sanchez, already the winner of the 100 metres, found the faster finish to come home in 21.80sec, compared to Foster's 22.03sec.

The Briton's time slower than his morning heat and his 1993 victory.

Rolph, of Newcastle, could not find the form that saw her win the European short-course title in December. Yesterday, she finished third in 2min 12.39sec, with Louise Karlsson, of Sweden, first in 2min 11.19sec and Martina Moravcova, of Slovakia, second in 2min 11.21sec.

MOTOR SPORT

Menu maintains fine start

BY MARK FOGARTY

BY EXTENDING his winning sequence to four at Silverstone yesterday, Alain Menu, the Swiss driver, improved his prospects of finally winning the *Auto Trader* British Touring Car Championship, in which he has finished runner-up for the past three years.

After his domination of the opening two rounds at Donington Park three weeks ago, Menu was again unchallenged in his Williams-run Renault Laguna, outgunning the Volvo S40 of Rickard

Rydell in both 20-lap, 45-mile races. Rydell, third in the championship for the past two years, was quick to point out that there are still 20 races to go, but Menu's unbeaten start bodes well for his chances.

In two of the past three years, the champion has been the driver who notched up a string of early victories, establishing a buffer that enabled him to protect his points advantage against increased competition later in the series.

In 1994, Gabriele Tarquini, of Italy, established a decisive

lead by winning the first five races, while Frank Biela, of Germany, laid the foundations of his championship success with victories in three of the first four races.

Menu has established a lead of 25 points over Rydell, although the situation is not quite as daunting for the Swede as the figures suggest because a revision to the scoring system this year allows drivers to drop their worst two scores.

In the first race, Rydell, after taking several laps to force his way past his unhelpful teammate, Kelvin Burt, only just failed to overhaul Menu. However, this was more a measure of Menu's calm calculation than a desperate defence on the run to the flag.

The second race was more representative of the Renault's superiority, with Menu winning by 3.187sec. Rydell put a brave face on his third defeat, arguing that his Volvo S40, new for this year, has untapped potential, whereas the Renault Laguna is entering its fourth season.

David Leslie finished third in the first race in his Nissan Primera, an excellent effort for a car in the very early stages of its development.

Menu's team-mate, Jason Plato, who squandered his pole position for the first race by stalling at the start, made amends by securing third in the second event. Robb Gravett, the 1990 British touring car champion, won both rounds of the Total Cup for independent (non-works) entrants on his return to competition in a Honda Accord.

BASKETBALL

Nurse may report for duty again

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE failure of Birmingham Bulls to reach Wembley to defend their Budweiser championship may provide Nick Nurse with the incentive to return to the club as coach next season. Had Birmingham taken the play-offs again, the 29-year-old from Iowa may have decided there was no challenge left for him with the club.

"Right now, I think I will be back," Nurse said after 36 hours of reflecting on the 81-78 loss to Chester Jets in the National Indoor Arena that gave the Jets a 2-1 aggregate win in the quarter-final series. "Good luck to Chester. They were destined to get to Wembley, just like we were destined to be there and win it last year."

The two defeats by Chester followed three reverses in the final four games of the regular season. "That run darkened the very bright things we had been achieving the rest of the season," Nurse said, recalling a sequence of 11 successive victories. "We ran out of gas."

Indeed they did. But for a home defeat by the Leopards three weeks ago, Nurse and not Billy Mims might have been lifting the glass bowl that goes to the champions. Harry Wrbleski, the Birmingham chairman, has left Nurse in no doubt that reinforcements will be available if required. "We have unbelievable sponsorship [from Peugeot] and crowds. We are so financially viable, we must be the envy of every other club in the country," Nurse said.

HOCKEY

High-scoring Hall lifts Aldridge and Poynton taste success

BY SYDNEY FRANKIN

BY A CORRESPONDENT

DANIEL HALL, of Guildford, scored nine goals in two days as Surrey, the holders, reached the semi-finals of the county championship with maximum points from four pool matches at Surbiton.

Surrey ended their campaign in the A division yesterday with a 7-1 win against Somerset, who were level at 1-1 at the interval but fell apart in the second half as Surrey took control with Wood, of Richmond, scoring three goals. The other scorers for Surrey were Sexton, Tinkler, Hall and Notton, of Surbiton, who finished with a total of seven. Naughty scored Somerset's goal.

The Army, who avoided relegation with a 3-2 win against Hampshire yesterday, put up a game fight against Surrey on Saturday, but lost 6-3.

Cambridgeshire finished second, Somerset third, the Army fourth and Hampshire fifth in this pool. Lancashire, Cheshire and Sussex joined Surrey in the semi-finals in A division after emerging pool winners at Crosby, Telford and Cannock, respectively. Durham, Shropshire and the Royal Air Force, along with Hampshire, will play in the B division next year.

Norfolk, Leicestershire, Devon and Suffolk qualified for the semi-finals of the B division. The semi-finals and final will be at Milton Keynes on May 3 and A division matches will take place at the same venue the next day.

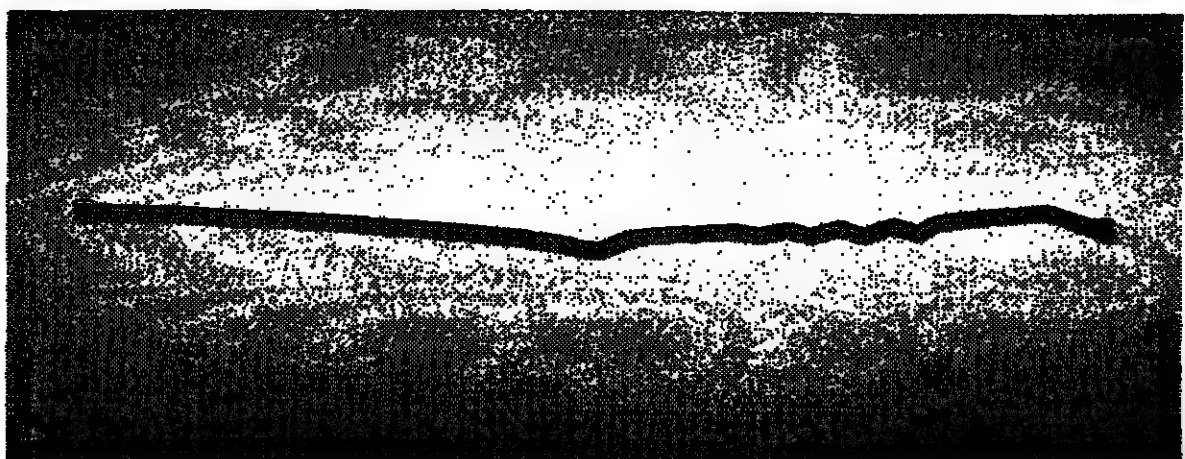
IT WAS worth the wait. After two previous unsuccessful attempts at the women's National League play-offs, Poynton finally triumphed and will join Aldridge in the second division next season, after the two qualified from the five regional winners at Milton Keynes.

Aldridge showed the value of their brief experience in the top flight last season, emerging from their four matches with an unbeaten record. It was a different story, though, for Poynton, who had to wait for the result of the final match between Aldridge and Tulse Hill to determine whether or not they progressed.

With the start delayed for two hours because of a faulty watering system, two late goals, including a penalty corner by Jane Hampshire, put Poynton out of their misery as Aldridge won 2-1.

It was nail-biting stuff for Poynton, who had earlier beaten Bury St Edmunds, when Daniels scored a last-minute winner after the Suffolk team had recovered to level the scores at 2-2 two minutes from time through a Sharp penalty corner.

Ireland won the four nations' tournament in Cardiff when Burke scored five goals in her side's crushing 7-0 win against Slovakia yesterday. Wales also finished on a winning note with a comfortable 5-0 victory over Poland, but finished second behind Ireland after losing 4-1 to them on Saturday.



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CRICKET

Bowlers fail to advance claims for promotion

By SIMON WILDE

EDGBASTON (third day of four): England A, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 144 runs ahead of the Rest.

IF THE purpose of the Test's Shield match is to act as an opportunity for the most promising players outside the England Test circle to stake their claims for further promotion, it threatens to be only half successful. The batsmen are showing themselves in a good light, but the bowlers are not.

Frustratingly, this confirms where England's strengths and weaknesses are perceived to lie and may leave David Lloyd, the national coach, who is supervising the sides here, with precious little encouragement for the series against Australia. The bowlers have failed to put the ball consistently into the right areas, although Simon Brown re-deemed a poor first-innings

benefit from a relaxed winter away from the limelight, playing for the University of Western Australia in Perth; now, at 27, it may be time for Ramprakash to return to centre stage.

"He played very well and he is maturing as a player," Lloyd said later. "He has performed under pressure as captain and gone out and got a good hundred."

He certainly ensured a miserable afternoon for Chapple, whose good figures of Saturday were spoiled by nine overs yesterday that cost 62. Chapple has taken the decision to bleach his hair, in the style of Ian Botham during his Hollywood period.

Perhaps the best batting of the match took place while Ramprakash and Warren were taking turns to drive the ball through the off side. Both reached their half-centuries off 90 balls.

On one occasion, Warren took one step down the pitch to Ealham and lifted the ball effortlessly over point for six and it was a shame that he ended his stay so ingloriously, tamely steering one of Gallian's gentle seamers into the hands of second slip.

League results 38
Fresh innings 39

display by moving the ball around dangerously last night to claim three good wickets.

At the other end, Silverwood epitomised the failings of the seam bowlers by producing one of the most wayward spells of his career. Perhaps over-anxious to do well, he repeatedly dropped the ball short and wide, prompting a show of pitch-stamping frustration.

Equally perplexing, one or two of the deliveries that he pitched up scuttled through low, suggesting that the pitch is not as benign as the high scoring in the first two innings would imply. There is a green tinge to it and Ramprakash, captaining The Rest, did choose to field first, so presumably he thought there was something in it for the bowlers. Edgbaston's reputation for producing unreliable surfaces for the important occasion has not yet been laid to rest.

Ramprakash was the chief beneficiary of the bowlers' generosity yesterday. Under pressure to demonstrate that he is capable of succeeding at levels above the county championship, he scored an admirably composed century, technically flawless and full of good strokes. He has clearly

displayed the best batting of the match took place while Ramprakash and Warren were taking turns to drive the ball through the off side. Both reached their half-centuries off 90 balls.

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Ramprakash on his way to an unbeaten century at Edgbaston yesterday. Hegg is the wicketkeeper

Stephenson century completes tutorial

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE PARKS (second day of three): Hampshire, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 109 runs ahead of Oxford University.

WHAT on earth was the Oxford stumper, Scrim, up to on Saturday? It was perplexing in the Parks and yet all the protection he favoured against the wind, and that only after a sweatsuit morning, was the sleeveless sort that cricketers often wear when it is cracking the flags in high summer. It was an extraordinary act, and almost a heroic one.

At this stage of the season, it would be unfair to say that any cricketer is pointless — teams have still to be forged in the fire of competition — but there was not much discernible purpose to the proceedings here. Hampshire laboured to 352 for three on a friendly pitch against bowling that aspired to the modest and occasionally reached that mark.

For the Hampshire captain, John Stephenson, it was at least a fresh start. Last year, upon inheriting the captaincy from Mark Nicholas, he mislaid his form utterly and failed to make a century. He duly took a hundred on Saturday, sharing century partnerships with James and Keech, who resumes this morning seven runs short of his own hundred.

If Stephenson keeps a diary,

his entry on Saturday night would not have detained him long. "Flogged the students," it might have read. Only Averis, who is on Gloucestershire's books and hoping to add a cricket Blue to the one he took in rugby, was up to the task. He has a lively action and took all three wickets to fall.

The first wicket occasioned that exchange of palms known as the "high fives" and, to take a charitable view, it was one way of keeping warm. One would have to be very charitable indeed to account for the Oxford player strolling round the outfield at the tea interval nattering away on a mobile phone. The young always find ways of surprising their elders, but this was a thoroughly disagreeable surprise.

Here's one to ponder in the days ahead. It comes from Edward Pearce, writer on politics and other matters, and who shared in The Parks on Saturday. "To appreciate cricket, you have to take a long breath."

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: First Innings 243 (for 9 dcs) (P G Morgan 60).
HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 352 (for 3 dcs) (J Stephenson 100, P G Morgan 60).
OXFORD UNIVERSITY: Second Innings 141 (for 9 dcs) (P G Morgan 60).
HAMPSHIRE: Second Innings 141 (for 9 dcs) (P G Morgan 60).

Smith deserves his first-class honours

By PAT GIBSON

FENNERS (final day of three): Cambridge University drew with Leicestershire.

JAMES WHITTAKER, the Leicestershire captain, was not prepared to take any chances with his team's morale just three days before they begin the defence of their county championship against Gloucestershire at Grace Road on Wednesday.

Rather than set Cambridge University a realistic target and risk a defeat that might have denied their self-esteem, he settled for batting practice, primarily for himself, to bring an unsatisfactory conclusion to a match that had presented arguments for and against the first-class status of university cricket.

The case in favour has been put eloquently by Ed Smith, Kent's stylish England Under-19 batsman, who, like Michael Atherton and John Crawley before him, is making the best possible use of his time at Cambridge, when he is not reading history.

Smith, who scored centuries against two county sides last season, yesterday advanced from his overnight 142 to 190, compiled in 409 minutes from 330 balls with 27 fours, before he was bowled leaving across the line against Parsons.

Ten more runs would have made him the first Cambridge batsman to make a double

century since Steve Henderson, later to play for Glamorgan and Worcestershire, against Middlesex in 1982. Smith had made his point, however. Is it not better for a young batsman such as Smith, who has now scored 879 runs in 15 innings at an average of 58.60, to be playing first-class cricket at this stage of his career, than be kept waiting for his chance in his country's second XI?

Sadly, the case against these university fixtures was advanced, wilfully or otherwise, by Whittaker, who has his own agenda and stuck to it, regardless of the spectators hoping to see a decent game of cricket.

He could have declared at the end of the first day, when Leicestershire were 430 for three, but chose to bat on so that Bakin could complete the second first-class hundred of his career. He could have declared again yesterday, when he and Wells were adding to a first-innings lead of 118, but preferred to help himself to a century, only the 36th in a career stretching back over 14 seasons.

It came in bizarre circumstances. He had taken two on 99 before going out again after the interval to pick up a single off the first ball, whereupon he declared, setting the University a notional target of 341 in 31 overs. They did not go for them.

Lamb says restructure plans are still under discussion

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIM LAMB, the chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), insisted yesterday that plans to divide the county championship into two divisions of equal standing have not advanced beyond the discussion stage.

Lamb was reacting to reports that Lord MacLaurin, the chairman of the ECB, was prepared to resign if the two-division system was not introduced. Lord MacLaurin favours the introduction of a system used by baseball in the United States, which would mean the championship being split into two divisions, with semi-finals involving the two top teams from each division followed by a final at the end of the season.

Lamb said: "We have not definitely come up with any conclusions with regard to the county championship and to try to give that impression would be misleading. No decisions have been taken either about the future of the county championship or any part of the cricket pyramid."

In Colombo yesterday, Ijaz Ahmed finished the day ten runs short of a second successive Test century after Pakistan had launched a ferocious assault on the Sri Lanka bowling in the first Test match.

Replying to Sri Lanka's first innings total of 330, Pakistan raced to 200 for two by the close of the second day. Ijaz, who scored 125 in his last Test innings against New Zealand at Rawalpindi in December, hit 90 off 186 balls and shared in a second-wicket stand of 102 with Rameez Raja, the captain, who made 50. Ijaz's stand with Salim Malik has so far realised 98 runs.

SRI LANKA: First Innings 331 (for 10 dcs) (M M Silva 100, M M Silva 100).
PAKISTAN: First Innings 200 (for 2 dcs) (Ijaz Ahmed 125, Rameez Raja 50).
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JUDO

Gordon in the mood for revenge

By JOHN GOODBODY

THERE is always a particular incentive for sportsmen to show that selectors might be wrong, so it was no surprise that the most combustible of the finals at the British Open championships in Birmingham at the weekend was the middleweight contest between Ryan Birch, the 1994 European champion, and Winston Gordon, only 21 but already a European junior bronze medal-winner.

Gordon is clearly a fighter for the future, but Birch had already been selected for the European championships in Ostend next month, his victory over Gordon in the British trials probably proving decisive.

However, in a fascinating contrast between the more explosive Gordon and the relentless, suffocating style of Birch, there was little between the pair. Gordon was penalised with a passivity point, but levelled the scores by knocking Birch down. Another leg attack by Gordon, which just failed to score, may well have been conclusive in winning him the verdict in a split decision.

Britons won four of the seven women's categories, the best performance coming from Kate Howey, who has moved back to middleweight. She threw every opponent up to the final for ippon, the sport's equivalent of a knockout. In the gold-medal fight against Amin Abdellatif, of France, she tumbled her opponent with a stomach throw and then forced her to submit to an armlock.

SNOKER: MAZROCIS REFUSES TO BE OVERAWED BY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP RUNNER-UP

Below-par Ebdon makes first-round exit

By PHIL YATES

PETER EBDON became the first notable casualty of this year's Embassy world championship when, in arguably the biggest upset witnessed at the Crucible during the 1990s, he was defeated 10-3 by Stefan Mazrocis yesterday for a place in the last 16.

Ebdon, runner-up to Stephen Hendry 12 months ago, played well below his best, was handicapped by a wretched run of the balls and met a perpetually smiling opponent who unconventionally settled any nerves by consuming several pints of lager at the table.

Having been responsible for so many stirring fightbacks, Ebdon's 6-2 overnight arrears were not considered insurmountable, but, from the moment he lost the ninth frame on the

black after cruelly going in-off when potting the blue, one began to sense it would not be his day.

Mazrocis compiled three half-century breaks in a scrappy encounter, but potted key balls in the unusually large amount of frames decided on the colours. Mazrocis, the world No 81, will play Alain Robidoux or Brian Morgan for a place in the quarter-finals.

The Crucible swansong of Terry Griffiths could hardly have ended more dramatically, a particularly fitting farewell for a veteran involved in so many tense moments here since he was catapulted to national prominence by capturing the title on his debut in 1979.

Griffiths, 49, now concentrating on his role as director of coaching for the World Professional Billiards and

Snooker Association, displayed trademark tenacity before being beaten 10-9 by Mark Williams. Trailing 5-4 overnight, Griffiths won five of the following seven frames and Williams, expected to breeze past his compatriot after overwhelming Hendry 9-2 in the British Open final earlier this month, looked incapable of recovery.

Williams won the seventeenth frame comfortably and drew level at 9-9 by snatching the eighteenth on the black. Griffiths, 56-24 up, had misjudged an attempted plant, Williams fashioned a 31 clearance to blue and deposited the last two colours on his next visit. Leading 9-15 in the deciding frame, Griffiths was again tantalisingly close to the winning line. Williams refused to allow him to cross it, however, and eventually showed a steely nerve by clearing green to black.

Williams goes forward to provide the second-round opposition for Hendry in the last 16. The title-holder cleared his initial hurdle on Saturday by efficiently beating Andy Hicks, a semi-finalist in 1995, 10-6. It was the Scot's 26th consecutive match win in the championship. By constructing seven half-century breaks and a century — his 39th of the season and the 388th of his career — Hendry underlined the fact that he is delivering the cue straight and true.

On the way to unexpectedly beating Dave Harold 10-7, Lee Walker, the world No 189, maintained the form that enabled him to include two former Crucible winners, Joe Johnson and Dennis Taylor, among his six victims in the qualifying competition.

Results, page 38

TABLE TENNIS

Syed's cunning steals the gold from Cooke

MATTHEW SYED became

England's first Commonwealth men's singles champion for eight years yesterday when he overcame Alan Cooke, the former holder, 22-20 in the fifth game of one of the best finals that the competition has seen (Richard Eaton writes). The pair battled for 1hr 20min at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, before Syed sneaked home 4-21, 21-16, 20-22, 21-18, 22-20.

This triumph by a more resolute player of backspin and float against a vigorous top-spin looper provided a vivid contrast of styles and encouraged Syed in the belief that, after gaining a first-class degree from Balliol College, Oxford, 21 months ago, he is

doing the right thing by delaying a career in finance.

However, it denied Cooke, 31, who also narrowly lost the men's doubles final, his chance of a second gold. He plans to retire after the world championships that start in Manchester next week.

Cooke had been the inspiration behind England's men's team triumph on Thursday, but now Syed's cunning deployment of spin and ambush- ing counter-attack — and sheer refusal to lose — made him stand out.

Jing Jun-hong, of Singapore, won the women's singles while Lei Jia-Wei, a 15-year-old Beijing schoolgirl, impressed in winning the women's and mixed doubles.

BOWLS

Shaw turns tables for final reward

A BRILLIANT trailing bowl from Norma Shaw, the English champion, played with perfect weight, gave her the British Steel (Timpale) women's world indoors singles title at Llanelli yesterday (David Rhys Jones writes).

Caroline McAllister, 29, the Scottish champion, had looked the likely winner, when she led by two sets to one, and, after the 54-year-old Shaw had levelled at 2-2, when she led 5-1 in the fifth and deciding set.

Willy Rankin, of Midlothian, achieved his third successive maximum count of eight shots at the CIS Scottish Cup Final against Irvine on Saturday.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Monarchs lack power to trouble Germans

THE London Monarchs failed to generate sufficient offensive potency in Düsseldorf yesterday and paid the price, losing 28-0 to Rhein Fire (Richard Wetherell writes).

While Fire's quarterback, T.J. Rubley, was throwing three touchdown passes, Stan White was replaced by Preston Jones in the final quarter.

After the 14,876 crowd suffered a scoreless first half, Rubley, took control and his passes to Mike Drilein, Bill Schroeder and David Rhodes left the Monarchs with too much to do.

Clive Allen, the former soccer player, had no chance to register his first points when the snap for the extra point was fumbled.

A crowd of 14,877, one more than watched the Monarchs, saw the Scottish Claymores lose 20-7 to the Barcelona Dragons, who are the only unbeaten side in the six-team league. Tyree Davis and Bryce Burnett scored the Dragons' touchdowns. The Claymores managed a touchdown from Yo Murphy five minutes before the end.

In Frankfurt on Saturday, a crowd of 31,729 saw the Galaxy beat the Amsterdam Admirals 19-10. Bobbie Phillips running 65 yards for a first-quarter touchdown.



Men at work.



Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

Confidence wilts at Riverside Stadium as relegation looms for Robson's expensive team

Middlesbrough plumb new depths of despair

It is all too much. They filed off afterwards, faces drawn, eyes sunk: case studies for students of physical and nervous exhaustion. Observe! See how these two things feed on each other, creating a closed system that brings them ever closer to despair.

Middlesbrough have, in the last couple of weeks, had the Coca-Cola Cup dashed from their lips by Leicester City, first with a late equaliser and then in the replay, with a late winner. They have had a place in the FA Cup Final snatched away, temporarily at least, by Chesterfield with yet another late equaliser.

And now, as they prepare for yet another replay tomorrow, they surrendered three points in this FA Carling Premiership defeat and with it perhaps their place in the top flight. Match after match keeps coming their way, stress after stress. They have five matches left in the Premiership, four of which are away. This was a must-win game. It does not look good.

With their mixture of foreign millionaires and domestic journeymen, they have operated a two-tier system, but not, alas, a team. They have a tyro manager, Bryan Robson — a few months ago considered favourite for the job as England coach — visibly wilting in self-confidence and a chairman, Steve Gibson, so beset with all that he has broken all precedent and given Robson a vote of confidence without immediately sacking him.

If Dostoyevsky had been employed to write *Roy of the Rovers* — not a very likely scenario, I grant you — he would have written something like the story of Middlesbrough's season: hysterical, pulpitating with bewildering events, with false dawns, doubtful triumphs, shocking

Simon Barnes finds that fatigue and bad luck are leaving an indelible mark

disloyalty, still more shocking loyalty, deceptively idyllic moments and a time when the dreadfulness of absolutely everything is spelt out with pedantic clarity — and all the time everything is set about worse, though it never becomes quite clear what the constricting moral purpose actually is.

Saturday's vignette saw Middlesbrough as victim of the managerial master-stroke. Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, threatened by relegation worries of his own, brought in a 19-year-old — one

byline, and Williams materialised in the right place to head it home. Juninho appeared, at last, in the second half and Williams did a fair job of keeping him quiet, at the cost of a yellow card. It was his day.

It was also a good day for Perez, the Sunderland goalkeeper, who pulled off a series of good saves. His last-minute low gather from Stamp's volley, crisply hit and coming through a crowd of players, with more coming in for the rebound, was exceptional. He might have been sent off for

Referee didn't help. Chances not going in. Nowhere near all over.

Perish the thought. There is plenty more torture still to come. Would winning the FA Cup and relegation be too unseemly an irony? It has been a long hard season, but the last few weeks will be the longest part, as well as the hardest.

There has been a nobility about this Middlesbrough dream, this Middlesbrough failure, and there has been a crassness, too. It was a noble thing to try to bring the best and most beautiful footballers in the world to Middlesbrough. It was bold and brave and delicious to try to build a new footballing capital of England, a new Jerusalem among the dark satanic docks of Teesside.

But it was crass to think that hurling money at football creates a team, crass to think that a two-tier system would actually work. Chesterfield, Leicester and, on Saturday, Sunderland — all these teams beat or held Middlesbrough because their sum was greater than Middlesbrough's parts. That is exactly as it should be in football, from lowest team to greatest. That was true of teams that I played in, true of teams that I played in.

Middlesbrough, from the moment Juninho stepped on to the turf, established a system in which the parts were greater than the sum. It has been bold, it has been brave, it has been rather wonderful, but the day of reckoning is upon them. It is still not quite clear what the crime is, but the nature of the punishment is becoming uncompromisingly clear.

MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): B Roberts; N Cox, N Pearson, S Vickers, D Whyte; Sampo, Emerson, R Merson, A Moore (sub C Higgins, 26min); Juninho, 54 — F Rowntree, M Bero.

SUNDERLAND (4-5-1): L Perez; G Hall, L Howey, R Ord, M Gray — A Johnson (sub A Gray, 73), D Williams, P Bradwell, K Bell, C Waddle (sub C Pearson, 67) — P Stewart, Referee: G Ashby



Mustoe climbs above Williams, scorer of the goal in Sunderland's 1-0 victory

Ndlovu's release induces panic in suspect defence



Strachan: good move

Southampton 2
Coventry City 2

By DAVID MILLER

THE conventional wisdom, after Southampton's collapse like a house of cards and surrender of a two-goal lead, was that Gordon Strachan, the Coventry player-manager, had turned the match by bringing himself on as substitute on the hour, with the additional, immediate assistance of a hospital back-pass by Francis Best.

Just as significant, however, was the liberation given to Peter Ndlovu, Coventry's Zimbabwean international. When Strachan and Kevin Richardson replaced Huckerby and Burrows, Whelan switched from midfield to left back and Ndlovu into a central attacking role from the left of midfield. Whereas Ndlovu had been subdued by Van Gubbels, now

he proceeded to reduce Southampton's suspect defence, whose home record is worse than any but Nottingham Forest's, to panic.

It is widely said that the club that most of the rest of the FA Carling Premiership would prefer to survive the relegation battle is Southampton. This is a double-edged benevolence. The club is respected, on the one hand, for representing the traditional, honourable elements of the game, as personified by long-term loyalty from such as the vice president, Ted Bates, 60 years with the club. Mike Channon and Matthew Le Tissier (who may be available against Sunderland tomorrow). However, Southampton are also popular because they are regularly worth three points. In the last quarter of an hour on Saturday, they all but gave them to Coventry, who, after many years at this trick, should be registered not as a limited football club but as escapologists.

In the first half, Coventry had looked as lost as a bunch of Mongolian tourists at Waterloo in the rush hour, unable to read the departure information board or understand the public address. The play was all red and white stripes. The first serious tackle Southampton had to make was Lundekvam's on Huckerby after 35 minutes. Cover-

Results and tables 32

try's first coherent move worth the name came shortly afterwards. This was real relegation stuff. Three Coventry players had been booked by a pedantic referee. Burrows even getting his name taken for falling over his own feet and a Southampton player then inadvertently tripping over him. It was that kind of match.

By half-time, Southampton should

have been four or five in front instead of the one goal forced home by Evans on the half-hour. Magilton clipped across a crowded goal-mouth, the ball seemed to have run dead. Slater hacked it back and Evans was there to meet it amid a flurry of bodies — his fourth goal in four games in which Southampton had previously taken seven of the nine points available.

When Ostenstad, early in the second half, scrambled home a second goal, untidier even than the first, with the Coventry defenders scrapping around like dustbin scavengers. It seemed Southampton were heading for ten points from 12 and the relative safety of 37 points, which would have lifted them above Coventry and Sunderland.

On a sunny afternoon, the sky, however, was about to fall in on them. Strachan arrived with the air of a desperate duty manager attempting to instil order among the

chaotic staff of a small-time supermarket lacking most of the ingredients the customers want. Yet, somehow, it worked.

The transformation was sparked by the unfortunate Benali's feeble back-header to Taylor in goal. The odds on Ndlovu getting there first made every parrot in Southampton prematurely unwell. He did so and drove the ball home via the far post.

Worse was to come. With an open goal, Dublin headed straight at Taylor. Then Strachan's floated cross was headed on by Dublin for Whelan to steal an equaliser on the far post. Dublin might even have won the match, but, from six yards, his lunge at Whelan's cross just failed to connect.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): M Taylor — U van Gommel, J Dodd, C Lundekvam, F Borna — M O'Shea, E Bell (sub C Higgins, 26min); J Magilton, R Sauer — M Sauer, C Oostenstad.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Oostwoud — P Williams, B Sampo, D Burton, P Richardson, R O — P Taylor, R Shaw, G McAllister, P Whelan, P Ndlovu — D Huckerby (sub G Strachan, 60), D Dublin, Referee: P Jones

Kinnear in pessimistic mood over Wimbledon prospects

Sheffield Wednesday 3
Wimbledon 1

By RICHARD HOBSON

IT HARDLY requires the memory of an elephant to recall when Wimbledon would have taken more than a passing interest in the proceedings at Anfield on Saturday morning. As recently as February, they appeared plausible challengers for the FA Carling Premiership title. Few queried that a place in the UEFA Cup would be their minimum achievement this season.

Joe Kinnear, the manager, ruled out even the latter after this defeat at Hillsborough, yet as he spoke pessimistically, not for the first time of the growing divide between the bigger clubs and his own, it became difficult to imagine how Wimbledon can ever take that next stride forward. In 1997-98, they will be underdogs again and, one senses, happier than when they sneered down upon Manchester United and Liverpool.

Commendably, seven of those who featured on Saturday emerged through the youth system and Kinnear will use the remaining four games to give further experience to his younger players. Logic dictates that Vinnie Jones will be among those omitted. Absent here with a knee problem, Jones appears to have little future at the club having rejected a new contract and served a writ on the FA Premier League demanding a free transfer under the Bosman ruling. Under the present rules, Wimbledon would be entitled to a fee decided by a tribunal.

"I do not see how anyone can stop this happening," Kinnear said. "Somebody was bound to test the rule eventually. It will be dog eat dog and the best players will end up at three or four clubs who can afford the wages. Manchester United will eat up Wimbledon; we will eat up teams in division one. One day, you might find the entire England side at one club."

Wimbledon have always managed to replace the likes of Fashanu, Wise and Barton. They can absorb the loss of Jones easily and on Saturday, Earle and Blackwell were more significant absences. Despite the skill of Leon-Hardson, they were altogether too quick to follow their instinct and pump high balls forward: Old Wimbledon. No Danger.

Carbone, the Italian, was by far the cleverest player on show. His 45-yard pass that laid on a second goal for Trustfull, a substitute, in the 82nd minute was a masterful combination of vision and geometry. In the first half, Carbone had forced a penalty against Kimble, squandered by Pembroke, and united with Whittingham to create a chance for Donaldson, who put his side ahead after 42 minutes.

The second goal, in the 77th minute, effectively sealed victory for Wednesday to heighten their own ambitions of a UEFA Cup place. Carbone turned McAllister, fed Pembroke on the left and ran on to distract the defence as Trustfull pressed forward and deceived Sullivan with a 25-yard shot. Goodmann's effort with Wimbledon 3-0 behind was little consolation.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): P Pearson — S Hooper, G Whelan, S Steadman, J Nolan — G Whelan, P Atkinson, M Pembroke, R Binkley (sub C Trustfull, 62min); D Donaldson, B Carbone.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Carrington, C Perry (sub A Baines, 80), B McAllister, A Vinnie — N Ardley, S Carbone, P Fear, D Leon-Hardson (sub J Goodmann, 75); D Hoddson, M Clark (sub J Egan, 75), Referee: J Winter

West Ham pay the penalty

West Ham United 2
Everton 2

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

THIS was a game, if you like, of two schizophrenic halves: West Ham United all over Everton in the first: missing a penalty and falling to hits in the second.

If that missed penalty was, without doubt, the watershed of the game, it still does not excuse the way West Ham, desperate for points, subsided. Nor can it take away Everton's achievement in rising from the ashes.

The credit for this, in ample measure, must go to Nick Barmby. Since joining Everton from Middlesbrough, he has had a thin time of it, but there is no doubt of his talent — he is potentially one of the best young attackers in the country. Intelligent, adroit and inventive. Both Everton goals came from his efforts: a long corner for the right for the first, a long free kick for the second that the towering Czech goalkeeper, Miklosko, somehow missed.

With Barmby on at half-time, there was suddenly a mind at work in what had

been a boring and brainless Everton side. Two-up at half-time, both goals scored by an incisive Kitson, West Ham had the chance to make it three five minutes after the interval. Dunne brought down the tricky little Portuguese, Porfiro, as he cut in from the left. Kitson insisted twice that he did not want to take the penalty, but sentiment prevailed. His teammates were equally insistent, so take it he did, and missed. Southall dived to his left and pushed the ball away.

To say that Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, was incensed would be to put it mildly. "We threw two vital points away today," he lamented. "No doubt about that. You don't get people to take penalties who don't take penalties. That was the trouble. Three-nil and it's finished. I can't believe what happened. It can't happen in Premiership football and it shouldn't happen. John Hartson was the penalty taker."

From that moment, there was no holding Everton. The day's reshuffle by their dozy, player-manager, Dave Watson, not only brought on Barmby, but pushed Unsworth up to attack down the left. West Ham, surprisingly, did little to stop him and, by sharp contrast with the first half, when the towering Ferguson had nothing to work with, he now had crosses aplenty.

Ironically, the one that counted was a poor one. After 77 minutes, Unsworth overhit his centre to the far flank. Watson retrieved the ball, Barmby crossed again, Ferguson got his head to it and

Branch nodded in from close range, compensating for the fact that he probably should have gained a penalty when he was fouled by Hall.

West Ham, admirably crisp and fluent in the first half, had gone ahead inside ten minutes. A mighty throw-in by Lomas from the left was flapped at by Southall, the ball came out to Kitson and he drove it in. After 32 minutes, Kitson scored his second. Porfiro found Hughes on the left and Kitson walked in the cross. What price Everton? Yet the tide turned and, in injury time, after a pointless foul by Rieper, Barmby's free kick,



Kitson: decisive miss

Miklosko's miss and Ferguson's finish gave Everton their point.

There was still time for Watson to divert Hughes's corner against a post, but the ball ended in Southall's hands.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): L Miklosko — R Hall, R Ford (sub S Dale — P Bates, 5), Lomas, J Unsworth (sub J Bishop, 55min); R Porfiro (sub M Rieper, 83), M Hughes — P Vitor, J Hartson.

EVERTON (3-5-3): N Southall — D Watson, R Dunne, D Unsworth — E Barrett, C Thomson, G Stuart, M Ball (sub N Barmby, 46), G Speed — D Ferguson, M Branch, Referee: P Alcock

Bassett's petrified Forest seem resigned to their fate

Nottingham Forest 1
Leeds United 1

By MARK HODKINSON

RELEGATION is thrust upon some clubs, while others, Nottingham Forest, for example, seem born to it. They duly went through the motions against Leeds United on Saturday, but the task was undertaken with an air of inevitability, impending doom. There is fear in their boots, pain in their hearts and asking them to play football that even aspires to mediocrity is like asking someone on death row to start the communal singing.

Forest had the best possible start, though, paradoxically, it was also the worst possible start. Gemmill passed to Van Hooijdonk deep in the Leeds penalty area and the Dutchman steadied his feet and his out-sized shoulders before drilling it past Martyn.

When a team has won so infrequently as Forest, it is understandably nervous of holding a lead, however slender. The ball was played repeatedly across the half-way line and it was apparent that, with more than an hour remaining, they were playing out time. Indeed, they were sometimes so nervous that they had up to eight players chaperoning the Leeds front line of Deane and Lilley, which was flattery in the extreme: Deane has managed just three league goals this season and Lilley is a recent acquisition from the not-so-mighty Greenock Morton.

At half-time, the Leeds supporters sang disparaging songs about their own team and dozens removed their shirts to wave them frantically above their heads. When your team has scored just 26 goals in 33 league games and is losing to teams as poor as Forest, it pays to make your own entertainment.

Many defenders do not get a great defence make, as Forest discovered when Burt Williams sliced a ball against his own post. Deane gleefully poked it into the waiting net as it rebounded along the goal line. Dave Bassett, the Forest general manager, afterwards dubbed the goal "spawny" and the epithet was accurate.

Bassett was in a tetchy mood at the after-match press conference, peppering his responses with swear words. He did not like the suggestion that the team having two managers — himself and the injured Stuart Pearce — was causing confusion. "There is no confusion; the only confusion is you trying to stir it up and drive in a wedge," he snapped.

He believes Forest have to win their final three games to avoid relegation. "It is not an enjoyable thing getting relegated, for the fans, players, directors and whoever else you are," he said.

George Graham, the Leeds manager, made his customary grumble that players were no longer of sufficient passion. "It is something a few of us managers have brought up," he revealed.

A few of us, writers and fans that is, might prefer it if Graham et al were preoccupied with fielding teams of enterprise, guile and skill; we are full up on endeavour disguised as passion right now.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-5-2): A Farns — C Cooper (sub V Warner, 24min); D Phillips, S Gether — D Lyons, S Gemmill, C Burt-Wilkinson (sub I Wilson, 26), B O'Neil, C Allen — P van Hooijdonk, B Roy (sub I Moore, 75).

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — G Kelly, D Wharmby, G Hille, A Dorey — P Lennart, I Flavel, L Brown, L Sharpe (sub C Palmer, 46) — B Deane (sub B Wallace, 90), D Lilley, Referee: D Elvey

No time for Stevenage to lick their wounds

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY KEITH PIKE

THE exertions of a cruelly demanding season may finally be catching up with Stevenage Borough, who could ill-afford the two points that they dropped on Saturday in their bid to retain the Vauxhall Conference title and, with it, even elevation to the Nationwide League.

Beaten by Woking in their FA Umbro Trophy semi-final replay three days earlier, Stevenage looked predictably drained in a goalless draw against Southport at Haig Avenue, their third match in six days, but it could have been worse. Southport squandering an 87th-minute penalty conceded by Mitchell.

There is no time for Stevenage to lick their wounds. Tonight, they re-

sume their faltering title challenge when Rushden and Diamonds, a revitalised team under Brian Talbot's management, visit Broadhall Way. Anything other than victory would be effectively, if not mathematically, end Stevenage's hopes.

Macclesfield Town, the 1995 champions, remain in pole position, if not on top of the table. They were displaced for the first time since February 22 when Kidderminster Harriers twice came from behind to win 3-2 away from Morecambe on Saturday. Harriers, two points clear, might not have long to savour the experience as Macclesfield, who have two games in hand, entertain Woking tomorrow.



Technology can help you escape

FOOTBALL

Aberdeen slide gives Celtic momentum

CELTIC may be prolonging the agony rather than sustaining a challenge, but with a 3-0 victory over Aberdeen, they have thrust Rangers' celebration of a ninth successive Scottish League championship into next month. Even if Celtic defeat Hibernian on May 4, the Ibrox side will clinch the title should they claim a point from a home match with Motherwell the next day.

With so much reckoning to be done, Aberdeen were caught up in the equation and mangled by it. For months, their supporters have suffered torment by tedium. Their team has won just once in 20 games and the abundance of draws in that sequence has tended to numb them, but yesterday torpor gave way to grievance.

With Celtic 2-0 ahead, Roy Aitken, the Aberdeen manager, took off both his forwards, Billy Dods and Dean Windass. No doubt he had some strategic purpose in mind, but the people who had followed the side to Glasgow saw no reason to probe his thinking. They treated the substitution of favoured players as an affront, not a tactic.

"Aitken must go," came the conventional chant from one corner of Celtic Park. The mood was better encapsulated in a form of protest. "Stand up if you've had enough," people yelled, jumping to their feet.

Aberdeen won the Coca-Cola Cup last season and were second in the table as recently as December, but it is only the scale of their difficulties that has caught the eye since. In response, Aitken has introduced a pack of players from the reserves, but when youngsters are blooded, their noses tend to get bloodied.

The team needs new, mature players, but Aberdeen give the impression of a club that has paused for thought. The emergence of Stewart Milne, a millionaire, as executive vice-chairman has brought an appraisal of operations and a flotation is likely that could raise as much as £15 million. At present, however, supporters who hunger for change cannot be consoled by abuse plans.

Aberdeen have turned into the solution to everyone else's problems. Yesterday, they delivered another

batch of solace in the East End of Glasgow. Celtic had not won any of their past five matches and Jorge Cadete had failed to find the net since March 1. By full time, remedies had been provided.

The Portugal forward scored twice, taking his total for the season to 30. With Aberdeen proving inept in defence and aimless in attack, Celtic's anxieties were given the afternoon off. In the 1-1 draw with Falkirk in the

Tennents Scottish Cup semi-finals last week, even a first division side could illustrate the trepidation within Tommy Burns's team.

Aberdeen, though, were unable to delay Celtic long enough to make them fret. Callow defending by Jamie Buchanan, in the 22nd minute, permitted Tosh McKinlay's

cross to drop over him and reach Cadete, who had enough time to run through a checklist of possible finishes before concluding that a gentle lob over Stillie was appropriate.

The forward was later to claim that his recent estrangement from the act of scoring owed much to the need to play when ill with flu and hampered by an ankle injury. Others in the side, however, do not enjoy such easy explanations and, of late, there has been particular disparagement of Thom.

Two-footed, swift and intelligent, the German has generally failed to exert influence in the club's key games over the past two years. An admirable display yesterday will have been relished by the crowd, but it could also increase irritation with the scarcity of sightings of Thom's excellence.

After 52 minutes, he steered a splendid pass behind the Aberdeen defence, leaving McKinlay to deliver the deep cross from which Donnelly put Celtic 2-0 ahead. Thom might have scored the third, having burst past Stillie, but, as the ball ran from him, Cadete greedily rolled it in.

Although this insignificant match could be seen on terrestrial television, a crowd of 47,293 still preferred to observe in person. As they look forward to the Scottish Cup semi-final replay, these supporters still await a Celtic side that can match their dependability.

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary



Macari makes his point during the final Potteries derby to be played at the Victoria Ground

Sherron dents Vale's prospects

Stoke City.....2
Port Vale.....0

By PETER BALL

A RUN of one win in six games left Stoke City's play-off hopes in ruins. Yesterday, they did the next best thing for their supporters, throwing Port Vale's own aspirations into doubt as a goal in each half by Mike Sherron won the last Potteries derby at the Victoria Ground for Stoke.

"We worked hard, we looked the more hungry, more determined," Lou Macari, who announced on Saturday that he is to resign as Stoke manager at the end of the season, said. "They had a real incentive to get in the play-offs, but we had a bigger incentive — to beat them. Today was our day, our last shot at doing something for our supporters this season."

The defeat leaves Port Vale still in the last play-off spot, but they are now vulnerable to Crystal Palace, two points behind with a game in hand and Vale's last opponents of the season at Selhurst Park. With Wolverhampton Wanderers at home in their other remaining fixture, they could hardly have a harder run-in.

"Two wins could still put us in there, but we are going to have to be better than we were today," John Rudge, the Vale manager, said. "It was a very big disappointment. The breaks have gone against us, but you make your own breaks and we weren't good enough today."

In the first half, there was little to choose between the teams. It was as bad as can possibly be imagined from a local derby with a lot at stake — tetchy, scrappy, badly refereed, with hardly a pass, let alone a complete passing movement, worthy of the name.

The few shots were mostly off target or straight at the goalkeeper, including the one that produced the half's goal in its dying moments. Sherron's weak shot was heading straight for Mussetwhite until it hit Glover to wrong-foot the goalkeeper and leave him helpless.

The goal fitted the first half, but it served its purpose by lifting the second. Vale returned with more vigour and, in one spell, midway through the half, might twice have equalised, but Muggleton saved well from Hill and McCarthy and Stoke held out.

Apart from that brief spell, Stoke looked the hungrier and sharper

side. Mike Macari hit the bar with an overhead kick and, when McMahon arrived to run free down the right, Stoke looked increasingly threatening. The second goal, though, like the first, was error-strewn. Glover's attempted clearance hit Beeson's arm and fell nicely for Sherron, whose finish this time broke no argument to send the Stoke supporters home happy after an eventful weekend.

So why was Macari resigning? "You get to a stage where things eat away at you," he said. "I've got to go to Edinburgh and win a court case. I don't intend to lose — if I do lose, with all the costs, I'll be on the streets selling *The Big Issue*."

"That takes a lot of worry, a lot of time and it's not a job you can do while managing a football club. Originally, it had been scheduled for June, but it's now back to September and could take five weeks. I couldn't be away at a time when we're moving to a new stadium and it's the start of the season."

STOKE CITY (4-4-2): G. Muggleton — A. Pickens, J. Sherron, L. Sigurdsson, A. Griffin — S. Flett (sub: G. McMahon, 70min), P. Wallace, C. Beeson (sub: M. McCann, 80min), R. Forsyth — M. Sherron, M. Beaton. PORT VALE (4-4-2): P. Mussetwhite — A. Hill, I. Aspin, D. Glover, A. Fenwick — J. McCarthy (sub: S. Tabb, 70min), D. Eagle, A. Fisher, R. Kooze (sub: W. Carson, 70min), L. Hills, A. Taylor. Referee: D. Miles.

Shield triumph has Knighton juggling for joy

Carlisle United.....0
Colchester United.....0
(aet; Carlisle win 4-3 on pens)

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

MICHAEL KNIGHTON, the Carlisle United chairman, has experienced many memorable moments in his life, such as the time that he juggled the ball on the pitch at Old Trafford during his ill-fated attempt to take control of Manchester United, and the time that he invited universal ridicule by claiming that he had sighted an unidentified flying object. Yesterday, at Wembley, was better. Much better.

Carlisle won the Auto Windscreens Shield final, after a penalty shoot-out against Colchester United, and Knighton managed a modicum of restraint as Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, handed over the prize. After all, it is not the done thing to act too extravagantly in the royal box.

At last, as the players embarked on their lap of honour, he could hold back no more. Down the steps and on to the grass he ran, hugging everybody and swirling a scarf high above his head in celebration. It was Knighton in his element and few would begrudge him his memorable moment, again.

In some small way, it helped to erase the horrors of two years ago, when Carlisle, on their only previous visit to Wembley, had lost to Birmingham City in the final of the same competition. Paul Tait's "golden goal" had produced sudden-death, a shattering emptiness at the fact that their efforts had all been in vain. This time, it was so different.

"You see all these shoot-outs on TV, when the big boys are doing it, and you think it'll never happen to you," Mervyn Day, the Carlisle manager, said. "When it does, it's unbelievable. We've got three games left in the league and perhaps we can win the title as well. That really would be a special double."

As all Wembley occasions, it had promised much. The supporters of Colchester, decked in blue and white, and Carlisle, in deckchair green,

white and red, mingled amicably outside the old stadium. Inflatable sheep, exported from Cumbria for the day, added a touch of humour.

Yet there was little comical or entertaining about the first half, which began at a pedestrian pace. Colchester's cause was not helped by the loss of Smart, their leading scorer, through injury after only 23 minutes. Greene rightfully received a booking, one of eight cautions in the game, for inflicting the damage.

The second half showed an improvement, with Colchester adopting a more thoughtful approach and using the wide open spaces to greater effect. Still no goals, though, and none in extra time. At least Carlisle had avoided another acquaintance with the golden bullet.

Penalties it was and pay-back time for Tony Cais, the Carlisle goalkeeper, who had been beaten by Tait's winner in 1995. Though Colchester led 3-1 in the shoot-out, Cais saved from Duguid and Cawley to allow Hayward, the Carlisle captain, to score the winning spot-kick. "You just dive one way and hope," Cais said. "That more than makes up for two years ago."

It had not been a good game, it was too fractured by far, between the evenly-matched Nationwide League third division bedfellows, but at least the sponsors were happy. They are to invest more than £750,000 in a new three-year deal. The final also attracted a bigger crowd than the Liverpool v Manchester United fixture at Anfield on Saturday morning, as the public address system proudly announced, so the shield clearly means something to some body.

It certainly does to Knighton, ball-juggler and UFO-spotter extraordinaire. Earlier in the week, he had threatened to withdraw Carlisle from the final because of a dispute over the club's share of the television money. Yesterday, he was glad he came. CARLISLE UNITED (3-5-2): A. Cais — D. Welling, W. Wally, S. Fournelle — P. Doherty, S. Hayward, P. Conway, W. Aspinall, O. Ardron — A. Smart (sub: R. Thomas, 20min), M. James, S. L. Preece. COLCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): C. Emberton — J. Dunn, D. Greene, P. Cawley, P. Gibbs (sub: C. Fry, 10min) — P. Atkinson (sub: N. Duguid, 91min), D. Gregory (sub: A. Locke, 84min), S. Wilson, R. Wilkins — M. Sals, A. Jacobs. Referee: J. Killy.

Barnsley bristle at merchants of doom

Crystal Palace.....1
Barnsley.....1

By IVO TENNANT

SO BARNSELY must wait a while longer until they are assured of promotion to the FA Carling Premiership. Until tomorrow, perhaps, when they are away to Portsmouth, or, more realistically, their match at home to Bradford City on Saturday. To their chagrin, though, they find they are not being praised for their football this season, but are being judged already on how they will fare at the highest level.

Before such comments are passed, though, consideration should be given to their achievement this season. Who, after all, thinks of Barnsley other than for its nurturing of Dickie Bird, Michael Parkinson and miners' strikes?

The struggles the football club has endured over previous decades were encapsulated in comparisons with Crystal Palace in the match programme. For Barnsley, the third and fourth divisions featured prominently. Now, no sooner are they on the verge of reaching the Premiership than they are told they will last in such company for barely a season. Mark McGhee — whose Wolverhampton Wanderers team

are, it should be noted, five points and a place behind — does not give them a hope. Steve Coppell, the Palace caretaker-manager, was much more considerate. "If Barnsley do come straight back down, that will still be better than staying in the first division," he said.

Nobody doubts the magnitude of Barnsley's task. However, to go by this markedly ordinary match, neither they nor Palace would last for long in the Premiership.

Palace scored first, through the kind of header by Shipperley that would be classified nowadays as an old-fashioned centre forward's goal. The equaliser was just about as archaic. Linighan shoved Wilkinson over with the dumbest of challenges and Thompson scored from the ensuing penalty.

It is imperative that Palace beat Reading on Wednesday if they are to take part in the play-offs this season. That is not merely Coppell's estimation. He will know next month whether he will become a full-time manager again, which is what he wishes to be.

CRYSTAL PALACE (2-1-2): C. Nash — A. Roberts, G. Davies, A. Linighan — S. Foster — M. Edwards, D. Hooper, R. Houghton, D. Gordon — N. Shipperley, B. Dyer. BARNSELY (4-3-2): D. Wilson — N. Gordon, M. McCann (sub: M. Bullock, 80min), A. Moses, A. de Zeeuw — D. Shenden, J. Hendrie, N. Thompson — C. Marselle — N. Redman, P. Wilton. Referee: C. Wilkes.

Change at Crewe for direct route

Brentford.....0
Crewe Alexandra.....2

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

CREWE Alexandra's tendency to overdo their natural passing game on occasions, often to the detriment of their results, has been remarked upon. The odd moment apart — old habits die hard, after all — they showed another, more direct, side to their play at Brentford on Saturday in a victory that virtually ensures their third successive appearance in the Nationwide League second division play-offs.

"This is a timely victory for us," Dario Gradi, the Crewe manager, said. "It was an awful game from my point of view, a passing point of view, but a good team performance."

It helped that they were playing a team who were face to face with their demon. Although still in second place despite this defeat, Brentford, apart from a narrow victory last Tuesday against a weakened Chesterfield, have been unable to win at Griffin Park and this time they saw even one of the draws that have bedevilled their home record slip away.

"It's not over yet," David Webb, the Brentford manager,

said afterwards, "but this was a wasted opportunity, a massive blow." The strain has been showing. Webb, who has already tendered his resignation once this season, manhandled one of his players, Marcus Bent, before substituting him in midweek. Bent was involved in Brentford's best moment on Saturday, his run and shot across goal just failing to become a cross for Asaba, and one of their worst, his control letting him down when left alone to collect (or not collect, as it happened) a cross.

Unfortunately for him, Brentford went behind immediately afterwards when Antholous touched on the resulting goal kick for Adebola to shoot low past Dearden. Uncomplicated stuff by Crewe standards, as Gradi admitted.

The second goal, for ambition and execution, was simply one to bore your grandchildren with. Shaun Smith, several yards inside his own half, saw his chance to send a wind-assisted free kick sailing over Dearden into the net. Route one, in fact, in its purest form.

BRENTFORD (4-4-2): K. Dearden — B. Staiburn, B. Ashley (sub: M. McPherson, 11min), J. Bates, J. Anderson — M. Bent (sub: G. Hurdle, 80min), P. Smith, D. McGee, K. Davies — C. Asaba, R. Taylor. CREWE ALEXANDRA (4-4-2): J. Keanon — L. Unwin, A. Woodcock, S. Macaulay, S. Smith — R. Savage, P. Charnock, G. Whalley, S. Johnson — D. Adebola, S. Antholous. Referee: N. Barry.

Hereford keep relegation issue alive

Hereford United.....1
Torquay United.....1

By DAVID POWELL

ON THE pitch and off it at Edgar Street on Saturday, Hereford United's last game of the season was being given the hard sell. The Hereford players were so in step with the drive to make a big day of Brighton's visit on May 3, with a performance so bedraggled that it was guaranteed to keep the relegation issue alive, that perhaps they should have been dressed in marketing executive suits rather than black and white football kit. Hereford could have won

had they played merely to good Vauxhall Conference standard, of which they may learn more next season. However, they were as poor as Torquay United in a game that fell below acceptable levels of skill and entertainment for the Nationwide League. A draw dropped Hereford into bottom-but-one place in the third division, three points above Brighton with two games to play.

Commercially, it was an acceptable result in the short-term, because Hereford supporters are now likely to snap up the remaining tickets for the first full house at Edgar Street this season, though that it is not to suggest it was deliberate.

Should results next Saturday follow home and away form, Brighton will beat Doncaster Rovers at the Goldstone Ground and Hereford will lose at Leyton Orient. That would leave Brighton and Hereford equal on points when they meet. Brighton have never won at Edgar Street, though their meetings have been few.

An office outside the ground reported only 2,000 tickets remaining, with a warning to hurry or face disappointment. The half-time tannoy message reminded supporters to buy in advance because the game was all-ticket. "Purchase your ticket NOW," the match-day programme implored.

Hereford's good fortune was to find themselves playing the division's worst team on recent form, now only one win from their last 16 matches. Torquay took a 45th-minute lead when Winter headed in Hathaway's corner. Hereford equalised in the 59th minute when Agana scrambled the ball in after Newland, the Torquay goalkeeper, won the weekend award for a David James impression.

HEREFORD UNITED (3-5-2): T. Wood — D. Smith (sub: J. Brough, 45min), D. Norton, T. Matthews — B. Sanderson, M. Turner (sub: A. Agana, 40min), B. McCarty, C. Harpin, M. Pritchard — J. Williams, A. Foster. TORQUAY UNITED (3-5-2): R. Newland — D. Chandler, A. Wilson, I. Baines — S. Wiles (sub: D. Hincheywood, 80min), P. Mitchell (sub: J. Howell, 55min), C. Oshiey, I. Harman, G. Nelson — A. McFadden, J. Welch. Referee: P. Richards.

10p THE TIMES

TUESDAY

SEE VOUCHER ON PAGE 2

10p

TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

OFFER NOT VALID IN REPUBLIC OF IRELAND OR MAINLAND EUROPE

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Full results and league tables ... Page 38

There was no shortage of possession for Sale, but a yawning chasm between them and Wasps in how they used it. Five minutes after the interval devastated the visitors as Wasps increased the pace of the game, drew mistakes from their opponents and ran in

Henderson scored the game's first try, aided by a visit from the Wasps medical staff. The centre collided with Baxendell, but his team-mates sustained the move long enough for Henderson to benefit from the magic sponge and arrive in time to take a tattered penalty and charge over. The Wasps defence, as absorbent as that same



Malinder sliced a clearance and Sheasby gobbled it up: King, whose judgment is becoming more acute game by game, made a half-break and Logan finished gleefully. Rees's second penalty gave Wasps a 16-3 lead at the interval, but, having taken 40 minutes to achieve so much, they all but doubled their tally in five minutes: Henderson

scythed through and, though Greenstock was penalised in the tackle as Sheasby crossed, Sale contrived to give the ball away and Roiser trotted over.

Three minutes later, King opened the Sale midfield once more and Greenstock pinned back his ears to make the line. When Rees kicked another penalty, Wasps stood 30 points clear with the final quarter remaining: —

"We are not playing well for the 80 minutes," Nigel Melville, director of rugby at

Wasps, said. "These guys need to improve to keep up the standards they are setting themselves." Yet, at this stage of the season, they look a side that knows where it is going, whereas so many clubs are clinging to the ropes.

Moreover, Wasps had the last word. Baxendell and Yates created a try for Beim, but Wasps went straight back downfield and, though Sheasty was held on the line, King dropped his trademark goal from a mere 12 metres.

There is more work to come for Wasps, but they must feel the end is in sight.

SCORES: Wasps: Ties: Henderson, Logan, Foster, Greenloch. Conversions: Rees (2) Penalty goals: Rees (3) Dropped goals: King. Sale: Tye. Barn: Conversions: Haskley. Penalty goals: Marshall.

REPLACEMENTS: D Rees, J Greenwood, R Henderson, K Logan, A King, M Wood, D Molloy, S Mitchell, W Green, C O'Sullivan, M Greenwood, A Reed, M White, C Shasby. White replaced by P Somner 25-35 min and 48, then replaced by D Cronin (75). J Utton temporary replacement for Foster (15-12).

SALE: J Mitchell, D Rees, J Barendse, A Haskley, F Barn, S Manning, D Morris, P Somner, J Smith, J Smith, J Marshall, D Baldwin, D Eskine, D O'Grady, C Wyvill. Marshall replaced by C Yates (16).

Referee: E Morrison (Breath).

By ALISON KERVIN

The match burst into life when Saracens equalised ten minutes before the final whistle, after trailing for much of the match. At 10-10, with the

The teams were closely matched, producing a sometimes turgid, defensive game early on, but some great performances from the backs offered light relief. In this respect, Pogo Patterson, the

Collins, the Saracens outside centre, had crossed the line after three minutes, but Saracens made no further impression until Frost, their

SCORERS: Richmond: Triss: Findlay, Patterson. Saracens: Triss: Collins, Frost. Penalty goal: Bonnett.

RICHMOND: S Lambour, M Jung, P Patterson, M Cotin, H Bullock, B Mills, G Peterson, K Findlay, S Dunnington, V Huxford, K Jenn, J Sutton, T Seale, J Shearn, S Wenn.

SARACENS: M Cane, A Shepherd, P Collins, A Ebdon, W Under, A Bonnett, E Jones, A Byland, M Pritchard, T O'Boyle, J Ross, L Burgess, C Green, H Clayton, C Frost.

Release: S Worsley (Northants)

play, which Quinsell won 26-16. Cannon was found guilty of misconduct and dangerous play by an Australian Rugby Union (ARU) judiciary panel, which described his actions as "extremely serious".

Six players in all were cited; the ARU panel decided on suspensions for two other referees today.

The controversy in Sydney overshadowed the magnificent 63-22 victory by Auckland Blues over Gauteng Lions. Gauteng suffered further when Kobus Wiese, their captain, was taken off with a suspected neck injury and severe concussion.

Bath	40
Orrell	14

By **NICOLAS ANDREWS**

"I never thought I would congratulate a team that's just been beaten," Southern said.

Lyon, the stout-hearted Orrell captain, carved his way through the Bath defence to



SCORERS: Bath: Tries: Peters (2), Gellard, Méndez, Ojomoh. Adebayo Conversion: Carl (4). Gellard. Goals: Tries: Lyon, Hood.

BATH: J Caldwell, J Staughtonville, M Perry, J Gusscott, A Adobayo; M Cate, A Nioof; K Hagg, G Linnar, E Peters, B Djomoh. *Mistral* replaced by C Morrison (*Salmi*). *Linnar* replaced by B Dzauk (*Salmi*). Gusscott replaced by F Stubbard (*Salmi*). Nioof replaced by J Stubbard (*Salmi*). Temporary replacement for Djomoh (*T-77*).

ORPHEU: D Lyon, J Naylor, G Hope, L Tugemeister, M Worsley, M McCarthy, R Sauermeister, M Hinchey, A Moffat, S Turner, A Bernini, P Peles, C Cusani, R Hope, P Angeli. *Turner* replaced by J Cusani (*Salmi*). *Peles* replaced by C Turner (*Salmi*). Hinchey replaced by M Hachen (*T-77*).
Reference: A Rowden (*Berlinshire*).

RUGBY LEAGUE: WOEFUL WARRINGTON SLUMP AS SHORTCOMINGS ARE EXPOSED BY SUPER LEAGUE LEADERS

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

The margin of St Helens' win puts them ahead of Bradford Bulls at the top of the table on points difference, but victory had its price. Alan Hunte tweaked a hamstring scoring his fifteenth try of the season and Chris Morley was put on report for an alleged high tackle and now has a nervous wait. 12 days before the Challenge Cup final.

Warrington's problems are serious and long-term. After his third game in charge.

Two tries by Forster and another by Vagana were scant consolation, as Martyn scampered over for his second. Before the final try by Anderson, Prescott, Haigh and Northey scored and Goulding made it eight successes from

the game was when Dean Sampson scored a fine try to level the scores following an early try from Damien Munro.

BY A CORRESPONDENT

try from Stephenson, after a high kick by Maloney was gathered by Gildart and five players combined in an intricate move that was completed by Stephenson's touchdown.

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It's fast, it's furious and even the Queen loves watching it. Christian Dymond takes a look at horseball

Horsing around with a ball



Slam dunk: horseballers out of the saddle as they grapple for goal

You do not need the physique of a television Gladiateur to play horseball, but there are similarities. A short blast of *Another One Bites the Dust* is traditionally played over the loudspeakers after every goal is scored in this high-adrenaline sport.

Horseball is rugby, basketball and horse riding rolled into one, a French sport imported six years ago attracting increasing numbers. "The French invented it as a way of improving riding skills and then found it was a great game to play in its own right," says Jim Copeland, the chairman of the British Horseball Association.

Mr Copeland plays for North London, one of several clubs which took part in a pre-season practice day at Warwickshire College, Moreton Morrell, near Warwick. The Ashford Arena at the college was the venue for horseball's first league championship at the weekend.

"It's fast, exciting, tremendous fun and a great team sport. You can be an average rider and still get huge enjoyment out of the game," says Jane Bradwell, who plays for Trent Valley seniors and the British women's team. The club's under-16 team took on Cotswold Vale juniors, who come from a pony club in Cheltenham, in the second match of the day.

Horseball is almost always played indoors, on a pitch about 60 metres long and 20 metres wide. The touchline at Moreton Morrell was marked by inflated yellow tubes. The goals, elevated metre-wide hoops at each end, face outwards, rather than upwards as in basketball, and are slightly lower for the juniors. Teams consist of up to six players but only four from each side take the field at any time. Each game at Moreton Morrell was preceded by competitors cantering around the arena and then lining up across the pitch to face the audience for an introduction by the commentator. The crowd duly applauded each player as their name was announced.



Rugby, basketball and horse riding rolled into one: horseball is a high-adrenaline sport originally designed in France as a way of improving riding skills

At the kick-off (for first pick-up) the team without the ball turns away from the opposition and faces its own goalmouth. This is because tackling head-on is considered extremely dangerous, so whenever players try to gain possession they must approach their opponents from behind.

This usually means that riders and horses on both sides are travelling in the same direction, giving an impression of cowboys heading off at high speed to round up some imaginary cattle.

From a distance, the ball resembles a model of Saturn, with a number of rings around it. In reality, it is a small football with a harness and six leather handles attached.

Players use the handles to pick up the ball and give them something to get hold of when they are trying to wrench it from an opponent's grasp. At Moreton Morrell,

one of the handles came off during a tussle, indicating how fiercely the games were being contested.

Despite the sport's energy and vigour, Mr Copeland maintains that it is extremely safe. "The welfare of the horse is absolutely paramount," he says. Rules dictate that you can play the ball but not the man — and obviously not the horse. There are yellow cards for player cautions and red ones for sendings-off.

At the start of each game the ball is placed on the ground in that half of the pitch belonging to the team "kicking-off". Their players face the ball — two on each

side of it — and then the first rider sets off to pick up the ball.

If he or she fails to do this, another player has a go. The ball must always be picked up on the move. It's no good stopping your horse, bending down and grabbing hold of it that way.

The most important piece of equipment, therefore, is the belly strap which goes underneath the horse and

enables players to lean over in the saddle without fear of falling off, although that does occasionally happen.

Once someone has the ball in their hands, it must be passed between at least

three different players without it being dropped before someone can take a shot at goal. This leads to the much-repeated scene of the team in possession conducting a tactical retreat to their own half to regroup and pass between the obligatory number of players before heading upfield again.

Nobody can hold on to the ball for longer than ten seconds and, should it go to ground, the "chair" referee sitting on the touchline keeps count again of the number of passes between players.

Rugby-style lineouts are taken with two horses from each side when the ball goes out of play and when a team re-starts the match after a goal.

Substitutions can be made whenever required during a break in play in the 20-minute game and each team can call one timeout in each half, a 30-second break which provides an opportunity for a quick

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

THE BHA is holding four league championship weekends this season. Clubs are divided into small leagues for the first day, followed by a knock-out competition the next. The second championship weekend is at Homestead Farm, Elmstone Hardwick, near Cheltenham (June 7 and 8, 10.30am-4pm). Admission is free. An exhibition also will be given during the Royal Windsor Horse Show (May 14-15). For juniors, horses of up to 14.2 hands only are allowed, for seniors 15-16.2 hands. Standard riding equipment is required, plus the belly strap, which costs up to £20. A standing martingale (about £25) stops the heads of rider and horse clashing. The horses have leg bandages in team colours and over-reach boots above the hooves. Bandages with soft shinpads and over-reach boots cost £15-£25 for the lot. A ball harness is £50-£60 and the ball £10-£15.

● BHA: 0181-41 1700

tactical chat. Half-time lasts three minutes and was marked at Moreton Morrell by the commentator asking over the loudspeaker: "Can we have some horse-walkers please?"

So, while the players had a rest the horses were exercised to prevent them cooling down too rapidly.

Through a personal communication system, Annette Clements, chair referee at Moreton Morrell, talked almost non-stop to the mounted referee on the pitch. With their headphones and radio microphones, the mounted officials resembled rock stars in concert.

Played at speed, horseball is a tremendously exciting spectator sport. As an attacking team bear down on goal the defenders do their best to rip the ball out of their hands or simply crowd them out to prevent them passing or shooting.

The sudden spurts and rapid stops make for a game that is constantly ebbing and flowing. Quite often the players are riding using their legs only.

There are about 450 horseball clubs in France, and fewer than 20 in Britain. But everyone at Moreton Morrell was talking of the interest it is creating, among women and men.

Tony Gubb, one of the mounted referees and coach to Woodspring, near Bristol, has just started teaching horseball at Millfield School in Somerset. "Within three weeks I had 43 students take it up," he says.

A horseball exhibition will be given next month at the Royal Windsor Horse Show. At a similar display last year, the Queen asked Mr Copeland if she could watch more of it in the evening. "This game will happen in a big way here," he promises.

Best of British prepare to meet world elite on ten-dance stage

Ruth Gledhill on two young couples who have ambitions beyond national titles

Britain's leading ten-dance exponents, Darren Bennett and Ruth Coster, face some of the most demanding contests of their careers in the coming weeks. Next weekend, the Sheffield couple fly to Paris to represent England in the world ten-dance championships and then return to Britain to face a strong challenge from the England No 2 couple, Stephen Sysum and Kade Lagden, from South Norwood. In May, they face Sysum and Lagden again, along with the world's best dancers, at the Open British championships in Blackpool.

At Birmingham, in a championship organised by Stan Page and Beryl Holland, ten-dancing is, for the first time, to figure in a chart, or league table, under the auspices of the English Amateur Dance Association. The chart will be used to determine who represents England abroad in future international events.

Bennett, 20, and Coster, 18, suffered a convincing defeat at the hands of Sysum, 18, and Lagden, 21, in Southampton two weeks ago at a fundraising invitation amateur competition organised by the former world champion, Stephen Hillier, in an attempt to inject new cash into youth dancing. Sysum and Lagden showed a clean pair of heels to Bennett and Coster in a contest across the five Latin dances only, the area in which Bennett and Coster are traditionally strongest.

However, Bennett, labouring with cartilage injury, almost did not dance at all and many put their surprise defeat in Southampton down to his knee, which is now all right again after a week in a sports injuries clinic.

Bennett partnered Coster when she was just four after he had asked her to dance at his father's studio in Sheffield. This makes them the longest-serving amateur partnership in the country.

Sysum, who started out with Peggy Spencer but now goes to

several former champions, including Richard Gleave, Robert Grover and Anthony Hurley for modern, and Michael Stylianou and Lynn Harman for Latin, is hoping that he and Lagden can become world professional champions simultaneously in Latin and modern, a feat achieved only once before, by Bill and Bobbie Irvine at the Albert Hall in 1968.

"You have to be very fit

indeed to achieve this," Bill Irvine said. "You have to get to another level of fitness beyond that required for ballroom or Latin alone. I had to do a lot of exercise outside the ballroom. A lot of people don't realise that and start to fade when they get to the sixth dance."

Most couples specialise in either the five Latin dances of cha-cha, samba, rumba, paso doble and jive, or the modern dances of waltz, tango, foxtrot,

quickstep and Viennese waltz. The cost — separate coaches are needed for each discipline and lessons can be as much as £45 for 45 minutes — and the time needed for training can make the ten-dance field a daunting prospect for all but the most determined.

Bennett, who is trained by Sammy Stoford, Doreen Freeman and Michael and Vicky Barr, is helped by a £1,200 Sports Council grant. Lagden is sponsored by Elaine Gornall, who also designs the dresses for the world champion, Karen Hilton. Both couples work out on the dance floor for three hours daily and, like most British amateurs but unlike many of their foreign counterparts, all four are in full-time employment or further education.

John Leach, associate editor of *Dance News*, does not underestimate the difficulty for a British couple to make it to the top in the world ten-dance league. "We really have not been in the running on the amateur ten-dance scene for ten years," Leach said. "Our couples tend to specialise because of the difficulties in training to keep ten dances at a world-class standard."

The benefit of this approach has been the emergence of modern amateur champions such as Christopher Hawkins and Hazel Newberry, or the reigning world professionals, Karen and Marcus Hilton, who were former amateur Latin champions before switching to modern.

Led by Hillier and his wife, Lindsey, who have formed the British Dance Sport Foundation, moves are already afoot to inject more cash into youth and junior dancing to fight off the German and east European challenge. In addition, the energy produced by the healthy rivalry between Bennett and Sysum and the determination they share to make it to the top means it is too early to write Britain off as a serious contender in the international ten-dance league.



Bennett and Coster practise a Latin routine in training for the ten-dance world championships

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When you have ten cards in a suit missing only the queen, it is particularly irritating to lose a trick. At least two declarers managed it in the first division of the 1996-97 Premier League.

Dealer West	Game all	IMPs
♠ A 8 7 2 ♥ K J 7 ♦ K 5 ♣ A J 10 2	♠ Q 6 5 4 3 ♥ 6 5 4 2 ♦ A 10 7 4 ♣ —	♠ — ♥ — ♦ — ♣ —

Contract: Six Clubs by South. Lead: Jack of spades

Brian Senior and I reached Six Clubs after North (Senior) opened One Spade. Opening a four-card major with a good hand has some theoretical demerits, but that's what Senior likes so that's what we play.

The only problem in Six Clubs is to pick up the trump suit. Usually when a player has Q x x of trumps in a slam he "drucks" himself (an expression I saw in *Le Carré's The Tailor of Panama*, meaning to make oneself inconspicuous), and leads quickly while trying to look invisible. But on this occasion West asked a lot of questions before leading, and hence I thought it more likely that East had the queen of clubs. So I played a club to the ace, and went down.

At another table the ebullient Joe Fawcett opened One Club on the North hand, and with no opposition bidding

eventually played in Six Clubs. In the process North had shown a balanced 15-17 points, and South good club support with spade shortage. East led the ace of diamonds.

What do you make of that? Sometimes players lead unsupported aces against slams because they are hoping to make a trump trick. And Fawcett saw an additional reason for playing East for club length — many hands with an ace and a void will be able to bid over One Club. If East had Q x x of clubs he would be more likely to have a balanced hand, and so be less likely to bid. So Fawcett also decided to play East for trump length, and started the clubs by laying down the ace.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TITRE
a. To have
b. A French gable end
c. Fineness of gold

URE

a. A meadow
b. A brown she-bear
c. A damp mist

TROCHILUS
a. A Trochaic metre
b. The crocodile bird
c. A double pulley
UNICIST
a. An anti-Trinitarian
b. A single sculler
c. A cell

Answers on page 47

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

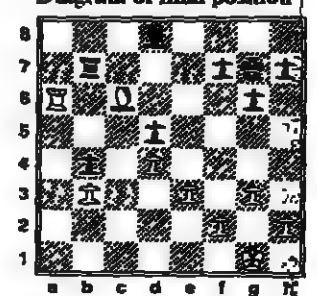
Staffordshire centenary

The Staffordshire centenary tournament resulted in a success for Bogdan Lalic and Jonathan Rowson who respectively scored seven and 6½ points from nine. In the game today grandmaster Lalic conducts an elegant positional campaign against the woman grandmaster Jana Bellin. White's grip over important squares on the c-file, combined with pressure against Black's weak pawns on a5 and c6 eventually scored a model victory.

White: Bogdan Lalic
Black: Jana Bellin
Staffordshire centenary April 1997

Queen's Indian Defence

1 Nf3	Nf6
2 c4	b6
3 Nc3	Bb7
4 d4	0-0
5 e3	d5
6 Bg5	Be7
7 Qa4+	c6
8 Bxf6	Bxf6
9 cxd5	exd5
10 g3	0-0
11 Bg2	Nd7
12 0-0	Rd8
13 Rf1	a5
14 a3	b5
15 c2	Nb6
16 a4	b4
17 Ne2	Nc4
18 Nf4	Qb6
19 Nd3	Rc8
20 Re1	Qc6
21 Ne5	Qb8
22 Nd2	Nb6
23 Qc3	Nb7
24 Nxb3	Qc7



Computer challenge

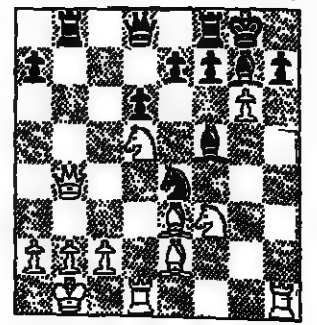
In two weeks' time Garry Kasparov, the world champion, commences his rematch against IBM's mark II Deep Blue computer. Last Saturday I gave game five of the match last year with comments. From tomorrow I will give the remaining games of the 1996 clash and make my predictions on the result.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in *Sport* and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Gallagher — Summerscale, Cannes 1997 and arose from the Dragon variation of the Sicilian. White is charging ahead on the kingside while Black, rather than defending, is counterattacking on the opposite wing. However, White now breaks through first. How?



Solution on page 47

FLORA LONDON MARATHON

Runners up to 7 hours, 15 minutes, 42 secs

UNISYS

The Times concludes its coverage of the 1997 Flora London Marathon with the names of the competitors who finished inside 7 hours, 15 minutes and 42 seconds. The results are provided by Unisys, of-
s to the race.

[illegible][illegible]

Sorry, rung number: the marathon's toughest climb is mastered by this competitor

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Hard work and innovation are at the heart of economic revival, says John Young

From suits to turbines, they're flying the flag

During a turbulent century, Britain's economic status has changed from that of "the workshop of the world" to being just another advanced industrial nation competing in an ever-growing global market. There has been no lack of crises along the way, including two world wars, which left Europe economically on its knees.

Britain was notoriously slower than most other industrialised nations to adapt to changes in world trading conditions.

Lack of investment, outdated labour practices and a failure to acknowledge a more competitive market led to this country being tagged "the sick man of Europe".

For many years, the pundits were preoccupied with the seemingly incurable deficit in the balance of payments. We hear relatively little about this nowadays as the focus seems to be on inflation and interest rates — but there is no room for complacency.

Although the nation's foreign currency reserve and overseas investments are far

stronger than a generation ago, in most months the balance sheet is in deficit. "Export or Die" may no longer be a fashionable slogan but it is no less true than it was. The annual Queen's Awards for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement, announced today, are a reminder that hard work and imagination are at the heart of Britain's present economic revival.

They are also a timely acknowledgement with a general election imminent that it is not politicians who deliver prosperity but clever engineers, designers, craftsmen and marketing managers.

The numbers of applications in all three categories are well up on last year: export from 1,191 to 1,301; technology from 254 to 278; and environment from 110 to 146. But the number of awards increased only marginally: 110 in the export category compared

with 107 last year and eight in environment as against six last year, while the 16 awards for technological achievement equal last year.

It may seem disappointing that the latter are only a third of the total in 1990, and that awards for environmental achievement appear to have made little progress since they were introduced in 1993. One explanation may be that the criteria have become stricter.

Award rules stipulate that technology entries must have a practical application in industry and must be a commercial success. For environmental awards the rules are still tighter. Entries must offer major benefits compared to existing products or processes as well as being commercially successful.

Export achievement is more easily measured in terms of volume and earnings. Applicants are required to submit

three years' figures to demonstrate how exports have increased between year one and year two, and the extent to which the increase has been sustained in year three.

Companies with a consistently high export performance but which cannot show a dramatic growth over three years may submit records of earlier performance.

This year's list of export award winners is eclectic. Among the big names are British Steel, Marks & Spencer, IBM United Kingdom Ltd, American-owned but fifth in the Financial Times list of top UK exporters, GEC and JCB, represented by subsidiary companies; and Toyota, one of the leaders of the new generation of Japanese investors.

But they are far outnumbered by small companies whose names are largely unknown. They are engaged in making everything from diving suits to wallpaper, from sweets to sewing needles, from gas turbines to children's books. Each has flown the flag for Britain and from today can fly its own flag of achievement.

'This country was called the sick man of Europe'



Olympic swimmers at Atlanta chose Speedo products

Second-hand success



SELLING second-hand clothing to developing countries has produced a thriving business for Lawrence M Barry & Co in East London. Rodney Hobson writes.

Lawrence Barry, a partner in the company, says: "I was working in my father's company handling ropes for pulpmaking and I said we should move into second-hand clothes, but he was against it."

"He said that when I became captain of the ship I could do what I liked. So when I took over 12 years ago I started collecting clothing with four staff."

Mr Barry says: "In developing countries, spending £50 on a suit could be a week's wages. An office worker there can have a nice suit for a fiver and a shirt for £1." The company now employs more than 100 people and has a fleet of 20 lorries.

The popular Dr Martens shoes have brought a second

export award for Airwair Limited, the Rushden, Northants, sales and marketing organisation of the Griggs group. Airwair began trading in 1988 and exports, which now account for three quarters of total sales, have rocketed since it won its first award in 1993.

Markets are worldwide, with the US taking one third of exports. A big increase in demand, the company's own marketing effort and increased production capacity are the reasons behind a £50 million increase in exports over the past three years.

Speedo International Limited, a maker of swimwear and beachwear, sells to 35 countries, mainly in Europe and Asia. Based at Nottingham, it is part of the Pentland sportswear group.

Speedo's international reputation has been enhanced by its sponsorship of 48 swimming federations. At the Atlanta Olympic Games last year, swimmers in the U.S. Australian and Chinese teams wore Speedo swimsuits.

EXPORT WINNERS

THE following have been granted The Queen's Award for Export in 1997:

AGCO Limited, Coventry: Agricultural tractors and agricultural equipment.

AgriSense BCS Ltd, Pontypool, Mid-Glamorgan: Biological products for insect pest monitoring and control.

AgriSystems (Overseas) Limited, Aylesbury, Bucks: Consulting and management services to agricultural enterprises, the rural development sector and post-conflict reconstruction.

Airwair Limited, Rushden, Northants: Distribution of the Dr Martens brand of footwear.

Always Engineering Ltd, Birmingham: Manufacture of ball transfer units used to help the movement of goods in material and air cargo handling systems.

Aquilon Ltd, Rotherham, South Yorkshire: Specialist diving suits for sport, military, and commercial use.

Arcasol Plc, Bristol, West Yorkshire: Manufacture of coloured composite sinks.

Arvo International Aerospace (a division of British Aerospace Regional Aircraft Limited), Stockport, Cheshire: BAe 146 civil aircraft and the new version, the Arvo R1.

Lawrence M Barry & Co, London: Export of second-hand clothing and shoes, all from UK sources.

Battle Bogle Hegarty Limited, London: Advertising agency.

Bass Beers Worldwide Limited, Birmingham: The export organisation of the Bass Group, mainly beer.

Bloem Research Limited, Camelford, Cornwall: Research chemicals for screening and development in the pharmaceutical and agrochemical sectors.

Bliley Office Equipment Limited, Woking, Surrey: Office furniture such as systems furniture, desks and shelving.

Blease Medical Equipment Limited, Chesham, Bucks: Anaesthetic equipment.

Borden Decorative Products Limited, Wallcoverings Division, Danvers, Lancashire: Fine printed wallcoverings for residential and commercial use.

Bridgeport Machines Limited, Leicester: Computer numerically controlled (CNC) horizontal and vertical machining centres, milling machines and lathes.

British Steel plc, London: The world's third largest steel maker.

Business Monitor International Ltd, London: Publisher of reports covering the political risk and economic prospects of emerging markets worldwide.

Camborne Holdings Limited, Miffield, West Yorkshire: Wool fabric for office furniture.

The Chambers Candy Co Ltd, Halesowen: Quality gift confectionery.

Computational Dynamics Limited, London: Developer of STAR-CD, a multi-purpose thermofluid analysis software system used by engineers.

Concept Systems Limited, Edinburgh: Data acquisition and navigation systems for the oil, marine and defence industries.

Conren Limited, Wrexham: Epoxy resin, polyurethane and cementitious polymer based industrial floor, roof and wall coatings.

Control Chemicals Limited, Prescott, Merseyside: Fine and intermediate chemicals; specialised organic chemicals for the pharmaceutical, agrochemical, photographic and detergent sectors.

Crestworth Trading Ltd, Walsby, Lincolnshire: Manufacturer of the "Lava Lamp".

Davis & Dearn Limited, South Ruislip, Middlesex: Household goods, toiletries and chemists' supplies.

James Dewhurst Limited, Manufacturing Divisions, Accrington, Lancashire: Woven and non-woven industrial reinforcement fabrics.

Electra Polymer & Chemicals Ltd, Tonbridge, Kent: Fine polymers and chemicals for the electronics industry.

Electro, a Division of 600 UK Ltd, Letchworth, Hertfordshire: Industrial lasers for marking, cutting and welding.

Ellison Holdings plc, Karghley, West Yorkshire: Industrial fasteners such as circlips, retaining rings and spring washers.

ENTACO Ltd (English Needle & Fishing Tackle Co Ltd), Studley, Warwickshire: Hand-sewing needles, medical suture needles and commercial long-line fishing equipment.

Eurocast Bar Limited, Loughborough, Leicestershire: Country producing merchant continuously cast iron bar and tube.

European Gas Turbines Ltd, Industrial Gas Turbine Group, Lincoln: Industrial gas turbines for power generation up to 50MW, oil pumping and gas compression up to 40000 HP.

Esey Publications Ltd, Watford, Herts: Publisher of children's biographies and gift books, printed in English and 30 other languages.

Ezee (UK) Ltd, Texturling Division, Garforth, Leeds: Texturised pre-orientated polyester yarn for apparel and upholstery fabrics, meat wrapping, the automotive sector and medical products.

The Fin Machine Company Ltd, Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham: Machinery for making car heaters, radiators and air conditioning units.

Financial Engineering Limited, London: Trading as Risk Publications, publishes magazines, books and directories and organises conferences and training courses in the areas of financial risk management, emerging markets investment and energy.

Fletcher Smith Limited, Derby: Machinery for the handling, extraction and processing of sugar cane or sugar beet.

Fresh Catch Ltd, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire: Processor of herring, mackerel and whitefish.

GPT Public Networks Group, Coventry: Advanced telecommunications products and services.

Griffin-Hawthorne Limited, Cradley Heath, West Midlands: Moulding systems, fendering systems, integral stud link chains, shackles, chain and rope lifting, and towing systems.

Harco Chemicals UK Limited, Durham Chemicals Division, Chester-le-Street, County Durham: Catalysts, paint driers and biocides for the coatings industry; and aromatic chemicals for use in the rubber and chemical industries.

Henrob Limited, Flint, Clwyd: Self-piercing rivets and welding systems.

John Hogg Technical Solutions Ltd, Telford Park, Manchester: Liquid dyes and manures for use as fuel colourants by the international petroleum industry.

IBM United Kingdom Limited - Greenfield site, Greenock, Strathclyde: Personal computers and provider of customer support services.

Ignited Paperboard (Workington) Ltd, Workington, Cumbria: Folding box board for use in packaging and graphics.

Continued on facing page

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Thirteen is number for
Win Queen's and let competitors all about

Thirteen is a lucky number for JCB



JCB Group has notched up another double in The Queen's Export Awards, this time by its wheeled loader and backhoe loader divisions, both based at Rocester, Staffordshire. It is the fourth time that the group has achieved a notable double in a single year. The company has won 13 awards since 1969.

Exports by the wheeled loader division, JCB Earthmovers, have risen from £6.6 million in 1994 to £20.4 million in 1996. Employing about 100 people, and exporting to Europe, the Middle and Far East, the US, Australia, Vietnam and Sweden, the introduction of new models has resulted in a sales increase of 50 per cent in the past two years.

The backhoe loader division, JCB Bamford Excavators, employing almost 300 people, has sold in some 120 countries over the past three years and exports have increased by almost £70 million to £177.9 million in 1996. The Martin-Baker Aircraft Company, based at Higher Denham, Uxbridge, has won six previous awards. The

The same names keep cropping up, says Michael Hatfield

company manufactures ejection seats and has pioneered the technical advancement of military air crew escape. Its export of ejection seats, helicopter crashworthy seats, and a full range of technical and support services to 50 countries is estimated to have saved the lives of 6,570 air crew around the world.

Also in the aviation business, Avro International Aerospace, a division of British Aerospace Regional Aircraft, based at Woodford, Stockport, won an award for its export of the BAe 146 civil aircraft and the new, updated version known as the Avro RJ. The company's main export markets are Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Turkey, Malta, Colombia and Australia.

AGCO, makers of agricultural tractors, related parts

and agricultural equipment, and formerly known as Massey Ferguson, won its first export award in 1986.

The company, based in Coventry, has increased its exports by more than £100 million in the past three years and exports to more than 140 countries.

Lansing Linde, based at Basingstoke, world leader in the manufacture of fork-lift trucks and associated equipment, has previously won four export awards and a combined export and technology award in 1972.

Now German-owned, its traditional export markets, which have more than doubled in the past three years, are Europe, Commonwealth countries and the Middle East. Its fastest-growing new markets are in eastern Europe, the Far East and the Pacific Rim. Trading for more than a century, Phoenix Engineering, based at Chard, Somerset, is a small company manufacturing road maintenance equipment. Exports have increased by more than 150 per cent in the past three years.

Its products go to more than 70 markets, mostly developing countries. Thailand has been the main market.

Michael Hatfield on the firms with a global lead in advanced technology

Direct line overseas



AN Edinburgh-based telecommunications software company, Kingston-SCL Ltd, has increased its overseas earnings nearly tenfold from licensing agreements and has won a Queen's award for its export achievement.

Michael Lacey, managing director, says: "It's an outstanding achievement when you consider we have only been exporting since 1991. Then, we sold under £250,000 of our services outside the UK. Now that figure has increased by over 68 times to £17 million. We are profitable and we are still rapidly growing."

Another telecommunications company which has made strides against strong international competition is GPT Public Networks Group, based at Coventry, which makes the plumbing of the rapidly growing industry of transmission networks, and has increased its export sales between 1994-96 by 240 per cent. It is the second year in succession that it has won an export award.

The small company of Electro Polymers & Chemicals Ltd based at Tonbridge, Kent, employs 25 people and makes a range of fine polymers, coatings and chemicals for the electronics industry and has won the export award for the first time. Founded in 1984 by Nick Heesom, chairman and managing director, the company's annual sales and production figures have doubled since February 1995 and exports have tripled in the last three years.

Computational Dynamics Limited, based in London, develops and markets a multi-purpose thermofluids analysis software system used by engineers to simulate fluid flow, heat transfer and chemical reaction in industry and the environment. Some 90 per cent of its turnover is in exports and it is particularly involved in the automotive industry.

Pixel Power Limited has 20 employees and started in Cambridge ten years ago. It makes hardware and software systems for creating graphics, text and animation for television programme production and broadcasting. Its main product, Collage, which can produce animated text as well as graphics on screen, is currently available in 20 language versions, the most recent in Slovenian and Thai.

Plasit International Ltd, based at Ashford, Kent, started trading in 1984 and develops and sells computer aided planning and costing software for retailers and makers of kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms and office furniture.



Kingston-SCL's Jupiter billing and customer-care system has 40 users in 28 countries

EXPORT WINNERS

Continued from page 42

Immersive Technology Limited, Oldham: Manufacturer of bank note validators.

International Cases and Chemicals Ltd, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire: High purity gases and liquid chemicals for high technology industries.

International KOD Logistics & Technology Support Operations, Dagenham, Essex: Ford Motor Company organisation developing markets for vehicle kit assembly.

International Systems and Communications Ltd, London: Publications in several languages for UN bodies and other international organisations for conference and other events.

Interpack Worldwide plc, London: International removal and relocation services for individual and corporate clients.

Inverest plc, Durness, Shetland: Specialty paper and board at four mills in Scotland and one in Somerset.

Backhoe Loader Division, JCB Bamford Excavators Limited, Rocester, Staffordshire: Backhoe loaders for the construction industry.

JCB Earthmovers Limited (Wheeled Loader Division), Rocester, Staffordshire: Wheeled loading shovels, the largest volume product in the earth moving sector.

W Jordan (Cereals) Limited, Baginbode, Bedfordshire: Natural breakfast cereals.

Kelth Ceramic Materials Ltd, Belvedere, Kent: Synthetic refractory raw materials, particularly mullite.

Kingston-SCL Ltd, Edinburgh: Telecommunications software.

Lansing Linde Limited, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Fork lift trucks and equipment.

Marks & Spencer plc, London: Clothing, home furnishings and food in over 30 countries worldwide.

Martin-Baker Aircraft Company Limited, Higher Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex: Aircraft ejection seats and helicopter crashworthy seats.

continued on page 45

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British expertise takes off

Rodney Hobson reports on the latest technology award winners



TRAVEL by air is now safer, and more entertaining, thanks to pioneering work by Rascal Avionics. Based in southwest London, the company has developed an airborne satellite communications system (satcom) that has been adopted by almost every major airline.

Sean O'Malley, the managing director, says: "Our system reports the aircraft's position accurately, allowing aircraft to fly closer together safely because the pilots know exactly where the other planes are. Routing of aircraft can be improved."

Rascal's satellite communications system allows passengers to make in-flight telephone and fax calls and to link laptop computers to the Internet. They can retrieve information and send e-mail messages while in the air. In future, passengers will be able to make car hire, hotel and restaurant reservations, play computer games and watch videos.

Satcom was a joint operation with Honeywell of the US, and involved 60 staff in Britain and 60 in Phoenix, Arizona. Rascal contributed its engineering skills and Honeywell its marketing and product-support expertise. The Rascal Electronic group has now won 33 Queen's Awards, 20 for export and 13 for technology.

The technology award won by Aspect, a company that moulds contact lenses, will be announced this morning at the optical industries exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

The company's system for moulding disposable soft contact lenses has been developed in the face of stiff foreign competition. Since it began manufacturing at a new plant at Hamble in Hampshire two-and-a-half years ago, production has multiplied seven times. The service centre at Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, handles more than 1,000 telephone orders a day. Aspect's UltraSYNC moulding system

automatically moulds lenses with an edge even thinner than a human hair.

Two technology awards have gone to Snell & Wilcox, which develops components for video displays at Petersfield, Hampshire. Pictures on large screens at events such as rock concerts have been improved either by increasing the number of lines on the screen or by increasing the display rate to eliminate flickering.

The second award, which is shared with Electrocraft Laboratories of Liss, Hampshire, is for using advanced digital technology to produce the best possible television test signals.

Homes are spared the inconvenience of having power supplies disrupted thanks to a device manufactured by Whipp & Bourne at Castleton, Rochdale. The device has only one moving part compared with 100 in a conventional circuit breaker, and is less obtrusive and easier to install.

ICI Explosives Europe, based at Rochdale, Greater Manchester, has found a way to make its products safer. By carrying two basic components separately, one in emulsion form and the other as granules, and mixing them on site, there is no danger of an explosion en route. Sales are mainly to the mining and quarrying industries, including coalmining. Australia is a key export market and sales are also made to South Africa, Latin America and North America.

Cameras that use silicon chips produced by VLSI Vision are cheaper, smaller and use less power than previously. The Edinburgh company produced the chips for a video camera for children marketed at less than £100 last Christmas. VLSI Vision has already led the world in developing the smallest video camera, the first digital colour camera and the first single-chip colour camera.

Amersham Life Science, part of Amersham International, has developed a system for monitoring the effects of potential new drugs on cells.



Edgar Biss, managing director of Percell, has guided his firm to 100 per cent growth

Countdown to success

A SMALL, privately owned Welsh business has joined the elite ranks of companies that have won a double award for export and technology. Rodney Hobson writes. It also stands alongside ICI as one of the few to have gained a Queen's Award in successive years.

Percell, based at Newport, Gwent, developed its Tellermate machine for counting banknotes and coins by weighing them. Tellermate works by comparing a batch of notes with the memorised weight of a standard sample. It can cope with dirt and wear.

Coins are counted in plastic cups that fit into cash drawers and can be lifted straight into the machine. The time taken to count the contents of a bank till is reduced to 45 seconds from

anything up to 15 minutes. Yet Edgar Biss, the company founder and managing director, says: "Success brings its own problems. I see our 100 per cent growth rate as a failure rather than a success. We are developing new product ranges that have the potential to give us tenfold growth within a couple of years, but we simply do not have the resources to deliver the potential."

Tellermate is exported to 25 countries and is used in major UK retail chains such as Homebase, W.H. Smith, Safeway and Pret a Manger as well as branches of major banks. Exports account for 75 per cent of sales with overseas customers including McDonald's and PepsiCo.

Oasis pens a winning number



CHRIS BAGNALL and John Yeoman, who started making pen nibs part-time in a garden shed, can now write their names with pride.

Their company, Oasis Art & Craft Products based at Kidderminster, has won a Queen's Export Award after 18 years of trading.

For Mr Bagnall, an industrial engineer, the award is "a recognition of our perseverance and achievement in expanding our

exports". The company, which manufactures arts and crafts products from calligraphy sets to candle kits, is now Europe's largest manufacturer of painting-by-number sets and children's paintboxes.

It sells goods to 60 countries, the most important markets being Europe and North America, and last year set up an office and warehouse in New Jersey.

The company employs more than 200 people and its turnover has increased by 30 per cent or more in each of the past five years.

John Young on the exporters with winning formulas

WHILE the talk in Peterhead, Britain's busiest fishing port, no doubt centres on the intricacies of the EU Common Fisheries Policy, at least one firm in this small Aberdeenshire town is getting on with the business of selling fish.

Since 1991 Fresh Catch has been processing herring, mackerel and whitefish and has more than trebled its exports to France, Germany and Denmark, while opening up new markets in Israel and the Far East.

"The CFP is a political issue," says Christopher Anderson, the company's managing director. "Quotas will probably get smaller, which means prices will rise and there will be fewer fish for us to process. We must look at new ways of adding value."

The company plans to open a new factory, also in Peterhead.

Fish is one of an ever-growing range of foods which Britain sells worldwide. W Jordan & Son (Silo), of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, began milking more than 140 years ago. But it was not until the Seventies that Bill Jordan, the present managing director, on a visit to the United States, visualised the opportunities of diversifying into value-added processed foods.

W Jordan (Cereals) now exports a wide range of breakfast cereals free from additives or preservatives. They include oats mixed with freeze-dried fresh fruits and a variety of porridges and muesli. To those it has added Fruiti cereal bars and healthy instant snacks. Its biggest mar-

Celebrating the best of British



Top brew: John James and John Wells

kets are in France, Italy and Spain. It is expanding in Belgium, Italy, the US and the Middle East. Turnover in 1995 was £28 million.

The Chambers Candy Company of Halesowen, West Midlands, began trading only in 1991, but it already exports high-quality confectionery to 40 countries.

A second successive award has gone to Bass Beers Worldwide, which sells one of Britain's best-known bitter ales in a growing number of overseas markets, together with its new Caffrey's Irish beer and Hooper's Hooch.

According to Simon MacDonald, the company's managing director, Bass is the biggest-selling imported draught beer in the United States. The company's markets are also expanding in eastern Europe and on the Pacific Rim. A smaller brewer which has

achieved comparable success is Charles Wells, of Bedford, whose Bombardier and Eagle bitter ales are sold in 300 pubs in Britain, and was recently given the top Brewing Industry Awards. It also brews the Jamaican Red Stripe lager under licence.

The company did not begin exporting until 1985. Since then it has established markets in more than 20 countries in Europe and North America.

For whisky-lovers, the Hebridean island of Islay has a potent magic, and the Bowmore distillery, legalised in 1779, is among the oldest in Scotland. It is one of three distilleries owned by Morrison Bowmore Distillers, which since 1994 has been owned by

the Japanese company Suntory, and which the following year was named Distiller of the Year in the International Wine and Spirit Competition.

Wine is unlikely to be a significant British export unless our climate changes. But the RTA Wine Rack Company, of Fakenham, Norfolk, has become adept at producing the racks in which to store the bottles and has increased its exports from £1.3 million in 1994 to more than £3 million in 1996.

Finally, no retailer has done more to boost the sales of British products than Marks & Spencer, which operates in more than 30 countries and this year wins its fifth export award. It recently opened a new store in Cologne, Germany, another in the Czech Republic, and will shortly be moving into South Korea and the Gulf states.

THE following have been granted The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement in 1997:

Archem Company Limited, Colchester, Essex: a system which controls an electrical discharge generator to improve the performance of microhole machines used in the manufacture of diesel injector nozzles.

Amersham Life Science (Amersham International plc), Little Chalfont, Bucks: development of Scintillation Proximity Assay Technology and Cytostar - T Micro Plate Technology.

Aspect Vision Care Limited (Manufacturing Division), Southampton: developing the UltraSYNC method of producing contact lenses, a new process which overcomes problems of shrinkage and distortion.

Electrocraft Laboratories Limited, Liss, Hampshire: joint

TECHNOLOGY WINNERS

award with Snell & Wilcox Ltd for the development of a television test-pattern generator.

GPV Public Networks Group, Coventry: development of a family of synchronous multiplexers, allowing telecommunications traffic to be consolidated into higher speed traffic streams, increasing the efficiency of the network.

ICI Ltd, Cheshire: development of the 3501 series of vertical drum scanners for use in high quality optical work.

ICI Explosives Europe, Wigan, Lancashire: developing emulsion explosives at the point of use for immediate consumption.

Integrated Display Systems Limited, Walsend, Tyne and Wear: developing the CLAVIS range

of bolt tension measurement equipment, primarily used by the automotive industry.

Percell Group Ltd, Newport, Gwent: development of a "Tellermate", a machine that counts bank notes and coins by weighing them.

Rascal Avionics Limited, London: development of a multi-channel aeronautical satellite communications system.

Scapa Group - Advanced Products Division, Blackburn, Lancashire: development of a porous composite membrane constituent of paper machine press clothing.

Snell & Wilcox Ltd, Petersfield, Hampshire: development of a large screen optimiser for video displays called Supervisor.

Snell & Wilcox Ltd: a joint award with Electrocraft (see above), for the development of a test-pattern generator for television.

VLSI Vision Limited, Edinburgh: development of a silicon sensor, to be incorporated into products that are smaller and cheaper than existing electronic devices, based on charge-coupled device image sensor chips.

Whipp & Bourne, Castleton, Rochdale: award for the development of a pole-mounted, gas-filled vacuum recloser (GVR) for the protection of sections of overhead power lines.

Zeneca LifeScience, Macclesfield, Cheshire: development of a biotransformation process, for the production of a herbicide intermediate.

Brewed beyond the call of duty.

BREWED BY THE CHARLES WELLS FAMILY
BREWERY, BEDFORDSHIRE, EST. 1276.

1997

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THE SHAPE OF SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL BRAND BUILDING.

WINNERS OF THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT 1996 AND 1997

Bass Beers Worldwide Ltd.

Bass ALE

CAFFREY'S

TENNENT'S

Staropramen

BARBICAN

HOCH

PHONES

Healthy growth in turnover produces results

Michael Hatfield looks at export winners in medicine and health



A COMPANY that exports personal care, health care, beauty, and household products has won a Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

Exports from the Charwell family's company, Davis & Dana, Ruislip, Middlesex, now account for 80 per cent of turnover.

Blease Medical Equipment Ltd, part of Blease Medical Holdings Ltd, based at Chesham, Bucks, manufacturer of anaesthetic equipment for use in operating theatres, has won an export award in a highly competitive market. Export sales, which represent 70 per cent of the company's

turnover, have doubled during the past three years.

The Northern Ireland company Perfectcell Limited, of Londonderry, has won its second award for the manufacture and export of packaging for sterile equipment for medical and surgical use. The company has achieved sustained growth and exports to 22 countries, mainly in Europe.

Another second-time winner is Pfizer Limited, of Sandwich, Kent. Part of an American-owned group, it develops pharmaceutical and animal

health products, and has twice won the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement. The total overseas earnings grew by more than £130 million during the three years of the application, and represented two-thirds of total sales.

Shield Diagnostics Limited, of Dundee, Scotland, has achieved its second award for the manufacture of *in vitro* medical diagnostic kits for auto-immune infectious diseases, microbiology, and cardiovascular diseases. Its exports have increased by more than 250 per cent since 1995

and represent two-thirds of total sales. It sells to 60 countries.

A first-time winner is Bionet Research Limited, Camelford, Cornwall. It produces research chemicals for screening and possible development in the pharmaceutical and agro-chemical sectors. Almost all its production is exported. Exports increased more than fivefold during the three years of the application.

Contract Chemicals Ltd, Prescot, Merseyside, a first-time winner, develops and synthesises fine and intermediate chemicals to order and

manufactures specialised organic chemicals for the pharmaceutical, agro-chemical, photographic, and detergent sectors. During the period of application, it doubled its substantial exports which represent two-thirds of total sales. It sells in 26 countries.

Entaco Ltd (English Needle & Fishing Tackle Co Ltd), based at Studley, Warwickshire, manufactures and exports hand-sewing needles, medical suture needles, and commercial long-line fishing equipment. It has extended its range by developing special needles for craft, tattooing, and sewing. It exports to about 60 countries.

A breath of fresh air for industry

John Young on the companies who think green and clean



THE environment category was added to The Queen's Awards in 1993, at a time of acute criticism of industry's allegedly irresponsible attitude towards pollution.

With air pollution the current cause for concern, it is no surprise that three of the eight projects chosen for this year's awards are aimed at reducing fuel consumption and minimising emissions, and another at eliminating unnecessary dust.

One of the winners is Autoflame Engineering, of Bellingham, southeast London, for developing a microprocessor to provide more accurate control of fans and pumps without affecting combustion performance. It is claimed to reduce fuel consumption by at least 8 per cent.

Two companies engaged in the production of gas turbines are rewarded for the development of low-emission combustion systems. The Rolls-Royce lean burn process has been

found to achieve significant reductions in nitrous oxide and carbon monoxide emissions.

The European Gas Turbines unit, manufactured in Lincoln, is said to have reduced nitrous oxide emissions by as much as 85 per cent.

Cleveland Castables, a division of Cleveland Potash, based in Middlesbrough, wins an award for a loading chute that eliminates dust emissions from bulk materials.

H & R Johnson Tiles, of Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, part of the Norcross group, is the largest manufacturer of ceramic tiles in the United Kingdom. The pottery industry notoriously produces huge quantities of waste but this company recycles its own waste, and two years ago it began to include scrap material from other companies.

Laporte Absorbents, of Widnes, Cheshire, has developed a new water purification coagulant known as Ferral, which is cost-effective and offers several environmental benefits.

The amount needed is usually considerably lower than



On the tiles: H&R Johnson's team, from left, Paul Herbert, Malcolm Lawson, Tony Cotton, Alastair Kearton and John Doorbar

with traditional coagulants, and the quantity of sludge generated in the process, which needs to be disposed of, is significantly reduced.

A further environmental benefit occurs during manufacture. Ferral is produced by extracting iron and aluminium compounds from clay waste normally disposed of in landfill sites. The amount of waste is now expected to be some 20,000 tonnes less in 1997-98 than it would otherwise have been.

ENVIRONMENT WINNERS

The following have been granted The Queen's Award for Environmental Achievement in 1997:

Autoflame Engineering Ltd, Bellingham, London: microprocessor-based combustion control system to reduce fuel consumption and minimise harmful emissions.

Cleveland Castables, Middlesbrough: Cleveland loading chute that eliminates dust emission and minimises degradation and segregation of bulk materials.

European Gas Turbines Ltd, industrial gas turbine group, Lincoln: low-emission combustion unit for industrial gas turbines.

H & R Johnson Tiles Limited, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire: recycling scrap from 12 tableware manufacturing companies, previously sent to landfill, with their own internal waste.

Laporte plc - Absorbents (Europe) Division, Widnes, Cheshire: development of a water purification coagulant (Ferral), derived from waste stream material from clay processing.

Rolls-Royce Industrial & Marine Gas Turbines Ltd, Coventry: dry low-emission (DLE) combustion system for industrial aero-derivative gas turbines.

Sony Manufacturing Company UK, Penicuik, Midlothian: environmentally friendly machine soldering process.

Vain Products Company Ltd, Irem, Manchester: development of a wash without volatile organic compounds and an alcohol-free dispensing solution for use in the printing industry.

EXPORT WINNERS

Continued from page 43

Matsushita Communications Industrial UK Ltd, Tringham, Bedford: Panasonic range of mobile telephones and accessories.

Matsushita Electric (UK) Ltd, Penryn, Cardiff: Colour televisions and microwave ovens.

Millair Aviation Limited, Ringwood, Hampshire: Spare parts for British manufactured fixed and rotary winged military aircraft.

Mivac Limited, Arnhem, Go Arnhem, Northern Ireland: International construction industry.

Molins Tobacco Machinery Limited, a division of Molins plc, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire: Tobacco machinery.

Morgan - Europe Ltd, Sheffield: Design and supply of rolling mill equipment.

Morecambe Bowmore Distillers Limited, Glasgow: Distiller of Scotch whisky, particularly single malt whisky.

NEC Semiconductors (UK) Limited, Livingston, West Lothian: Part of NEC Corporation (Japan), manufacturer of semiconductors.

Newbridge Networks Limited, Newport, Gwent: Network communications products and services for voice, data and other media.

Nitrox Technology & Engineering, a division of Nitrox Communications International Limited, Macclesfield: Mastering equipment for DVD (a new disc format) and CD production.

Optical Optoelectronics, a division of Nortel (Northern Telecom), Pagnton, Devon: Optoelectronic components and modules for use in fibre optic communication systems.

Novartis Grimsby, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire: Chemicals for the pharmaceutical, crop protection and animal health industries.

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Pharmaceutical and animal health products.

Phoenix Engineering Co Ltd, Chard, Somerset: Road maintenance equipment.

Pipeline Integrity International, Grimsby, Northumbria: Pipeline services to pipeline operators worldwide.

Pixel Power Limited, Cambridge: Hardware and software systems for creating graphics, text and animation for TV programmes.

Planit International Ltd, Ashford, Kent: Computer-aided planning and costing software for retailers and manufacturers of kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms and office furniture.

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Planit International Ltd, Ashford, Kent: Computer-aided planning

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Kleinwort Second Endowment, Norsk Hydro (Q1).

Finals: Dumyat Investment Trust, Kleinwort Endowment Policy, Pex, Premier Farnell, United Energy. Economic statistics: US Treasury March budget statement.

TOMORROW

Interims: Cosalt, DFS Furniture, James Dickie, M&G Equity Investment Trust, McCarthy & Stone, Nynex CableComms Group (Q1), SmithKline Beecham (Q1), St Ives. Final: Fishers International, Henderson Highland Trust, Innovative Technologies. Economic statistics: EU agricultural ministers meeting in Luxembourg; US Treasury auction of two-year notes.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: GATX Corporation, Philips Electronics (Q1). Final: Bank of Scotland, Bentalls, James Beattie, Seafield. Economic statistics: UK March retail sales; minutes of March 5, UK monthly monetary meeting; Bank of England to auction 7 per cent 2002 stock; CBI quarterly industrial trends survey; IMF releases world economic outlook report.

THURSDAY

Interims: Cater Allen Gilt, ICI (Q1), Shires Smaller Companies. Final: Laura Ashley Holdings, Austin Reed, Daks Simpson Group, Eurotunnel, Fitzwilliam, Folke Group, Foreign & Colonial Pacific, Scottish & Mortgage Trust, Trinity Holdings, Uglad International. Economic statistics: UK February global, March non-EU trade balances; UK March EU harmonised consumer prices index; IMF's Michel Camdessus holds press conference.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled. Final: none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK Q1 preliminary GDP.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

Laura Ashley has designs on growth

LAURA ASHLEY: Full-year figures on Thursday are expected to reflect the benefits of the stringent cost-cutting campaign implemented by Ann Iverson, chief executive, upon her arrival. As a result, pre-tax profits should be up from £10.3 million to £15.5 million, while earnings should have grown by 53 per cent from 3p to 4.6p.

Trading during the period remained patchy. As the Christmas trading statement revealed, a like-for-like sales increase of 7 per cent during the first six months had been almost completely eroded during the second six months.

Any improvement to profits in the current year will depend on the performance of its new ranges for the summer. The ranges are deemed to have improved, and, with the benefit of better weather, a narrowing of the gap between home furnishings and garments may be anticipated.

Shareholders are likely to be rewarded with an increase of some 200 per cent in the net dividend from 0.5p to 1.5p.

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM: Further strong performances from its pharmaceutical and healthcare divisions should help to offset the ill-effects of currency fluctuations.

The first-quarter pre-tax profits due to be announced tomorrow are likely to reveal an increase of about 10 per cent, from £387 million to £425 million, with earnings 8 per cent ahead at 10.3p.

At constant exchange rates sales of pharmaceuticals should be up by about 11 per cent, excluding the DPS acquisition. The main thrust to sales will come from Paxil, up 30 per cent, Augmentin, up 8 per cent, and a 25 per cent increase in sales of vaccines.

Among SmithKline's new drugs, Kyril and Famvir are expected to have made further solid progress. Sales in consumer healthcare are likely to be up about 13 per cent at constant currencies, with further strong performances expected from Nicorette and Nicoderm in the US where the group boasts an 80 per cent market share.

A first-quarter payout of 4p is expected compared with 3.6p for the corresponding period, and brokers such as NatWest Securities



Ann Iverson's cost-cutting campaign is expected to boost Laura Ashley's full-year figures

ties have pencilled in profits of £1.7 billion for the full year.

ICI: The first-quarter figures due on Thursday are likely to prove every bit as bad as feared with pre-tax profits set to tumble from £202 million to £75 million. The reduction in earnings is likely to be even greater, down from 15.9p to 4.5p, a fall of 72 per cent. The strong pound will have cost the group dearly with a negative impact of about £80 million expected. This is likely to mark the low point in the group's fortunes.

A slump in selling prices, high feed costs and a strong pound have all combined to take their toll.

The paint division is expected to produce a seasonally weak

performance, although profits will be up sharply as a result of a contribution from the Bunge paints business.

The materials division is likely to show a further deterioration, while the benefits of rationalisation in the US should start to be felt in explosives. The worst performance will come from industrial chemicals where a loss is expected after higher feed stocks eat into margins.

BANK OF SCOTLAND: An otherwise exemplary set of annual results due out on Wednesday will be spoiled by the unexpectedly slow progress being made at BankWest, the West Australian retail bank that was acquired last year.

Johnny de la Hay, bank analyst

at Credit Lyonnais Laing, which forecasts pre-tax profits of £664.9 million compared with £545 million last time, says that since Bank of Scotland purchased a 51 per cent stake in BankWest from the state Government it has failed even to reach the targets set out in its prospectus.

Based on its other businesses, however — such as NWS Bank, the finance house — the Credit Lyonnais team predicts a 19 per cent rise in the net dividend to 8.15p and remains bullish on the shares.

PREMIER FARNELL: After the profits warning in January, full-year figures later today are unlikely to contain many surprises.

The group is set to report an

increase in pre-tax profits of 79 per cent from £5.5 million to £13.5 million following the acquisition of Premier, although earnings will take a nosedive from 37.5p to 28.6p. But the real focus of attention will be on prospects and future plans, highlighting the long-term benefits of the Premier deal.

Last year saw the group badly exposed to the slump in the worldwide semiconductor market, which accounts for 20 per cent of the core catalogue division's revenues. Brokers will undoubtedly be hoping for signs of an upturn underpinning an improvement in the semiconductor market.

Despite the uncertainty expressed by brokers about the future, hopes are high that there is scope to lift the payout by 11 per cent from 10.8p to 12p.

DFS: Growth continues apace despite evidence of a general downturn in house-related expenditure and rising costs. This will be reflected in half-year figures tomorrow expected to show pre-tax profits up almost 20 per cent at £18 million. This will be matched by earnings up from 9.6p to 11.4p.

A 33 per cent increase in sales to £116 million will be fuelled by an aggressive store opening programme.

Two new stores were opened during the period, stretching the total number to 40. Like-for-like sales grew 10 per cent in 1996. But the sharp increase in advertising during the period, particularly in and around the London area, will prove a drag on overall profitability.

The payout is expected to be up about 19 per cent to 3.7p.

AUSTIN REED: A strong recovery is on the cards when the group unveils full-year figures on Thursday. These are expected to show pre-tax profits almost doubled at £6.7 million, compared with £3.4 million last time, along with earnings up from 7.2p to 14.3p.

A positive trading statement in January cheered the market and provided evidence of a useful improvement in margins. Sales are reckoned to have grown by about 9 per cent, but manufacturing remains difficult. Brokers say the recovery still has some way to go. The payout is likely to be up from 6p to 6.75p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

City focus on fate of rates

THE City is all but convinced of a Labour election victory and has turned its attention to the chances of a rate rise after the new Chancellor's first monetary meeting on May 7. The consensus is that rates will rise 0.25 per cent but stronger than expected GDP and retail sales data this week could put a half-point rise on the agenda.

The first-quarter GDP figures, due on Friday, are expected to show the economy continuing to accelerate. MMS International, the economic forecasting group, predicts quarterly growth at 0.8 per cent, taking the annual rate of growth from 2.6 per cent to 2.9 per cent. This expansion is regarded as well above trend by the Bank of England and it is likely to harden its calls for a rate rise.

Warm weather and an early Easter should have given a boost to the retail sales figures, due on Wednesday, but the City is still expecting more modest growth than in February. MMS predicts that the monthly increase will fall slightly, from 0.5 per cent to 0.4 per cent, with the annual rate remaining flat at 4.4 per cent. The minutes for the March monetary meeting are also published on Wednesday, but Eddie George has made no secret of his position on rates and the minutes are likely to be little more than a footnote.

The CBI industrial trends survey, which is released on Wednesday, is expected to show that in contrast to the booming retail sector, manufacturing activity and prices remain subdued because of the strong pound. The trade figures on Thursday will provide further evidence of the impact of the pound on manufacturing. The wholesale trade gap for February is forecast to rise from £641 million to £800 million. The non-EU trade figures for March are also expected to show the deficit growing from £554 million to £650 million.

In a quiet economic week abroad, German M3 statistics — a target measure for the Bundesbank — are forecast to show a decline in monetary growth from 9.1 per cent to 8.3 per cent.

In Japan, consumer prices data will provide the first information on the impact of a rise in consumption tax from 3 per cent to 5 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Westminster Health Care, Emess, Northamber, Sell Highland, The Sunday Telegraph, Buy Sanctuary Music, Alexon, Charterhouse Communications, Sell JJB Sports, The Observer: Buy Associated British Foods, Hold Tie Rack, Independent on Sunday: Buy Northamber, Slough Estates, The Mail on Sunday: Buy European Colour, Datronch, Hold Mice Group, Sell Bass.

Value on offer despite the risks

There are various ways we can look at fair value for conventional gilts. Current index-linked yields are about 3.6 per cent. To this we should add an allowance for inflation. At 2.7 per cent the RPI is rising in line with its five-year average rate. Finally we need to add a risk premium. As a proxy we can take the volatility (standard deviation) of inflation over the past five years. This is equal to 0.8 per cent. On this basis ten-year yields should be about 7.1 per cent, compared to an actual level of 7.5 per cent.

Of course fair value is more likely to be a range than a single point. We know that index-linked yields tend to be volatile, reflecting underlying growth conditions and international levels of real yields. The volatility of index-linked yields over the past five years is about 0.35 per cent. Allowing for this, we can suggest the fair range for conventional gilts of 6.75 per cent to 7.45 per cent — still just below current levels. Although gilt yields are fair value to cheap, they may rise further. It is typical for markets to be driven to valuation extremes before heading back towards fair value. Moreover, real yields (measured as nominal yields minus inflation) at 4.6 per cent are only in line

with their average of the past ten years. They are below their average of the past five years — currently 5.3 per cent.

Upside risks to current yield levels come from domestic and international sources. First, UK economic growth needs to be slowed by higher rates. Building society handouts will add to the rapid pace of consumer expenditure in the second half of this year. Already on some estimates there is little output gap left in the UK. Since the money supply is increasing rapidly, the labour market is tightening and wage

unlikely that gilts can move in the opposite direction to overseas markets if international yields are rising. In the US yields are being driven up by rapid economic growth, rising wage inflation and a belated recognition by the Federal Reserve of the need to tighten. Elsewhere, in Europe and Japan, the monetary authorities have been operating emergency interest rate regimes. Economic recovery means that the need to maintain such low rates is diminishing fast.

How high could gilt yields go? The average forecast for

GILT-EDGED

inflation is rising at 5 per cent, the risk of future inflation is rising. Consequently, it is probable that we will have a number of rate increases after the election. Given the high correlation between short and long rates, rising base rates will make it almost impossible for gilts to perform well. This is true even though rate rises to about 7.4 per cent appear to be discounted in the forward markets for the next year.

Second, the international bond environment is not constructive. Given the integration of global capital markets, it is

UK inflation in 1998 is 3.5 per cent. The standard deviation around this is 0.6 per cent. Add to that at least some further inflation risk premium and index-linked yields of as much as 4 per cent and we have a possible peak of about 8 per cent to 8.5 per cent. This is still below the last peak of 8.9 per cent in September 1994.

If there is this upward risk for yields why hold gilts at all? Firstly, as has been suggested, from a longer-term perspective gilts already look to be fair value. Overshoots in value are an opportunity to increase

exposure. Second, by comparison with a number of other international markets, gilts look quite attractive and so should be overweighted in an international portfolio. They contain more protection against higher inflation, higher growth and higher rates than most markets. Real yields (defined as the difference between nominal rates and current inflation) are higher than in most other countries. Nominal yields are the highest in Europe. Once the election is out of the way some of the risk premium associated with current uncertainty should come out of the spread against other markets. Gilts ought to be attractive to international investors. If EMU runs into problems, gilts provide a hedge against bonds in other European countries. If it goes ahead, gilts may be the last convergence play left in Europe.

Despite a significant risk that gilts will underperform cash in coming months, they remain one of the more attractive international markets and from a longer-term perspective are starting to offer value at current levels.

DOUG JONES
Gartmore Investment Management

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

TITRE

(c) The fineness of gold or silver. In chemistry, the strength of a solution as determined by titration. From the French *titre* a title or qualification. "The French rule for finding the par of a foreign gold coin is to multiply its weight by its standard or titre."

URE

(c) A damp mist. Local Scottish dialect. From the Old Norse *ur* drizzling rain. "Glowing at the azure sky, / And loony oceans ure."

TROCHILUS

(b) A small Egyptian bird (not certainly identified) said by the ancients to pick the teeth of the crocodile. From the Greek for a runner, from *tréchein* to run. "When the crocodile yawns, the trochilus flies into his mouth and cleans his teeth."

UNICIST

(c) A believer in the unicity of the Godhead, with none of the complex arithmetic about the Trinity. From the Latin *unicus* one. "The schoolmen would perhaps have called you Unicists, but your proper name is Psephanthropists."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxb8! Qxb8 (1... Nc3+ 2 Kd1 doesn't help) 2 Nxe7+ Kh8 3 Rb7! checkmate

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.20	2.04
Austria Sch	20.67	19.17
Belgium Fr	60.81	58.31
Canada \$	2.388	2.228
Cyprus Cyp£	0.874	0.809
Denmark Kr	11.23	10.43
Finland Mk	8.98	8.30
France Fr	9.87	9.17
Germany Dm	2.98	2.74
Greece Dr	460	430
Hong Kong \$	13.38	12.28
Iceland	127	107
Ireland Pt	1.11	1.03
Israel Shk	5.84	5.19
Italy Lira	2319	2119
Japan Yen	218.80	203.80
Malta	0.660	0.605
Netherlands Gld	3.332	3.062
N Zealand \$	2.61	2.29
Norway Kr	12.00	11.28
Portugal Esc	283.00	273.00
S Africa Rd	7.96	7.06
Spain Pta	247.50	230.50
Sweden Kr	13.39	12.39
Switzerland Fr	2.52	2.32
Turkey Lhs	223.67	208.67
USA \$	1.730	1.600

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6310 (+0.0055)
German mark
2.7991 (-0.0028)
Exchange index
99.8 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2834.5 (+14.5)
FTSE 100
4310.5 (+39.8)
New York Dow Jones
6703.55 (+311.86)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
18352.14 (+505.16)

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Pressure groups hit home

Pressure groups affect the way more than half of Britain's big companies operate, says a survey published today.

The survey, based on the views of 250 companies, also suggests that recent campaigns by organisations such as Greenpeace have convinced companies that pressure groups will become more influential in the future.

Peter Hamilton, managing director of The Communications Group, the public relations company that carried out the survey, said: "The message to business is absolutely clear. It is simply not an option to ignore pressure groups. Producers are finding that going through the conventional political channels doesn't work and that direct action is more effective."

Warrants move

Covered warrants, securities that can give the option to buy anything from debt to metal, are to be traded alongside equities by the London Stock Exchange. The warrants, currently traded over-the-counter, are to be transferred to the screen-based dealing system used by AIM companies along with buying and selling prices. The draft rules for the new system are published today, and the new-style trading is expected to begin in June.

Market bound

Royalblue, a software company, plans to go public this summer with an estimated market value of £35-£40 million. The company specialises in financial trading systems, corporate call centres and customer help desks.



Rosalind Wright, new head of the SFO, who takes office today. She has to balance the demands of a record case load against a shrinking budget

Tough debut for SFO chief

By ROBERT MILLER

ROSALIND WRIGHT, who takes up her new post as director of the Serious Fraud Office today, is facing a tough task with a record case load being handed on to her from the previous director, Peter Young. The draft rules for the new system are published today, and the new-style trading is expected to begin in June.

Ms Wright, who was formerly an executive director of the Securities and Futures Authority, the City watch-

dog for brokers and futures dealers, is expected to press the new Government for the election for a bigger purse with which to tackle her investigations.

These include the £1.8 billion Sumitomo Corporation copper fraud; the Peter Young unit trust inquiry at Morgan Grenfell, and the circumstances surrounding the collapse of Fasia, the privately owned retail empire.

The SFO also continues to

maintain a watching brief on the civil inquiry at NatWest into the £90 million black hole.

The new SFO director, who succeeds George Staple, is expected to handle these cases on an annual budget that in 1996-97 is estimated at £17 million, the same as the previous year. This figure, however, is scheduled to fall by £1 million in the next year to level out at £15 million by the end of the decade.

The SFO employs its own

lawyers, accountants and financial investigators but has to call for assistance from local or regional fraud squads — depending on the region in which the initial offence of fraud or theft was committed.

The most experienced fraud squad, and the one that handles most of the present SFO caseload, is the City of London fraud squad, which is engaged on the copper and Peter Young investigations. If the fraud office were to take on the

NatWest case it is expected that the City of London police would be assigned to that as well.

Ms Wright has already let it be known that she feels that her budget needs expanding, particularly as most SFO investigations involve a number of different jurisdictions and cases of particular complexity.

A dedicated police force assigned to the fraud office would also help her cause, she believes.

Broker highlights possible crash

By FRASER NELSON

TEATHER & Greenwood, the most active broker to companies on the Alternative Investment Market, has given a warning that the junior exchange may be on the brink of a mini-crash, and has advised its clients to buy fully listed stocks instead.

The broker, which acts for one in every nine of AIM's 260 companies, holds little hope that the FT-SE AIM index, which has lost 3 per cent of its value in the past month, will be able to mount a resurgence.

In the April edition of its smaller companies briefing, it says: "It is significant that the FT All-Share Index has broken its all-time high against the FT-SE AIM index this month, confirming that it will continue to outperform this index in 1997. This is another reason for our suggesting that the FT-SE AIM index may have peaked."

It concludes: "Buy the FT All-Share Index against the FT-SE AIM Index."

The judgment, coming from the most influential AIM adviser, was met with astonishment in the City. Stephen Roberts, a market-maker at Winterflood Securities, said: "I have yet to see an AIM prediction that has turned out to be correct. With AIM, you can't invest in the market in general anyway — it's a matter of picking specific winners."

Nigel Popham, one of the authors of the report, said that his fears were based on concerns that many of the fledgling AIM stocks were fair-weather companies which may alter if the economic climate changes. He said: "We are trying to throw up points for debate. If we are not buyers of the market, we are certainly holders."

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Buoyant small firms boost the jobs market

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S owner-managed small firms are each creating on average 12 jobs every year, new evidence from industry suggests today as a further separate study shows demand for permanent staff rising at its fastest rate for a decade.

Companies in the UK's owner-managed small business sector are seeing rapidly improving sales and profits and the creation of a significant number of jobs.

Research findings today from KPMG, the accountants and business advisers, show that business entrepreneurs are now playing a big role in helping to put Britain back to work.

Looking at the filed financial accounts of a sample of 3,000 owner-managed businesses with annual turnovers of £2 million to £60 million, KPMG finds such firms increasing their operating profits 14 per cent, and turnover 13.5 per cent to £54.5 billion.

The study says that such growth allowed owner-managed companies last year to add an extra 37,000 jobs to their staff rolls — or an average of 12 new jobs for every firm.

Companies in the South East performed best overall, though the largest job increases were in the West, and the smallest in the North East. But the study shows that, even in smaller companies, boardroom salaries are still markedly outpacing those for employees generally, with a 9 per cent increase in company

directors' pay compared with a 5.2 per cent rise for staff.

John Eggleston, KPMG head of services for owner-managed businesses, says the survey demonstrates the importance of the enterprise culture to the economy: "Businesses are displaying confidence in the future by investing in their products and the people to make them."

In a separate study, Reed Personnel, recruitment specialists, says that demand for permanent staff is up 16 per cent in the first quarter of this year — the highest quarterly increase since 1987.

The company tracks demand for both permanent and temporary staff by means of its employment index, drawing on statistics from its 200 branches. Reed's permanent index for the first three months of this year has risen from 75 points to 87, and demand now stands at its highest level since the fourth quarter of 1990, just before the UK plunged into recession.

But it is still only 70 per cent of the demand for staff at the height of the economic boom of the late 1980s. Demand for temporary staff is falling slightly, with the company's index down a percentage point in the first quarter, though this may reflect normal seasonal patterns.

Alec Reed, the company's chairman, says: "At long last, demand for permanent staff may be returning to pre-recession rates."

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET																
1997		Mid cap	Price		Wdy	Yld		1997		Mid cap	Price		Wdy	Yld		
High	Low	(million)	per share	+/-	%	P/E		High	Low	(million)	per share	+/-	%	P/E		
133	100	10.90	100	-	3			132	91	52.00	83	Bernardo	123	-		
134	101	21.20	100	-	1	5.2	10.8	133	92	5.46	100	100	47	-		
135	102	10.90	100	-	5			134	93	27.40	100	100	100	100	100	
136	103	10.90	100	-	5	0.6	18.4	135	94	29.00	100	100	100	100	100	
137	104	99	21.90	Access	39	30	20.3		136	95	21.50	100	100	100	100	100
138	105	99	4.10	Access	39	30	20.3		137	96	35.60	100	100	100	100	100
139	106	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		138	97	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
140	107	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		139	98	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
141	108	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		140	99	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
142	109	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		141	100	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
143	110	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		142	101	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
144	111	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		143	102	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
145	112	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		144	103	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
146	113	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		145	104	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
147	114	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		146	105	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
148	115	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		147	106	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
149	116	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		148	107	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
150	117	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		149	108	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
151	118	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		150	109	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
152	119	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		151	110	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
153	120	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		152	111	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
154	121	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		153	112	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
155	122	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		154	113	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
156	123	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		155	114	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
157	124	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		156	115	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
158	125	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		157	116	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
159	126	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		158	117	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
160	127	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		159	118	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
161	128	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		160	119	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
162	129	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		161	120	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
163	130	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		162	121	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
164	131	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		163	122	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
165	132	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		164	123	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
166	133	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		165	124	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
167	134	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		166	125	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
168	135	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		167	126	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
169	136	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		168	127	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
170	137	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		169	128	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
171	138	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		170	129	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
172	139	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		171	130	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
173	140	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		172	131	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
174	141	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		173	132	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
175	142	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		174	133	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
176	143	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		175	134	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
177	144	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		176	135	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
178	145	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		177	136	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
179	146	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		178	137	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
180	147	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		179	138	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
181	148	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		180	139	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
182	149	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		181	140	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
183	150	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		182	141	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
184	151	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		183	142	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
185	152	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		184	143	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
186	153	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		185	144	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
187	154	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		186	145	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
188	155	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		187	146	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
189	156	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		188	147	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
190	157	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		189	148	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
191	158	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		190	149	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
192	159	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		191	150	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
193	160	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		192	151	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
194	161	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		193	152	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
195	162	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		194	153	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
196	163	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		195	154	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
197	164	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		196	155	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
198	165	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		197	156	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
199	166	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		198	157	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
200	167	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		199	158	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
201	168	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		200	159	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
202	169	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		201	160	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
203	170	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		202	161	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
204	171	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		203	162	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
205	172	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		204	163	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
206	173	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		205	164	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
207	174	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		206	165	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
208	175	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		207	166	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
209	176	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		208	167	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
210	177	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		209	168	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
211	178	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		210	169	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
212	179	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		211	170	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
213	180	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		212	171	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
214	181	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		213	172	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
215	182	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		214	173	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
216	183	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		215	174	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
217	184	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		216	175	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
218	185	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		217	176	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
219	186	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		218	177	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
220	187	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		219	178	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
221	188	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		220	179	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
222	189	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		221	180	58.70	100	100	100	100	100
223	190	99	1.90	Access	39	30	20.3		222							

Dinner tables are again abuzz with talk of rising house prices. Choose your area carefully and you could believe that the late Eighties are back again — letters from estate agents begging you to sell, gauping and tales of friends having to take days off work to ensure that when they see the property they want they can transact immediately. Do not be deceived. The days of rampant house price inflation are gone for good. A cruel fate awaits those who have not learnt the lessons of the late 1980s.

First the facts. According to the Halifax, house prices have, on average, risen by 7.2 per cent in the year to March. According to the Nationwide, the figure is 9.7 per cent. Moreover, that relic of the housing slump, the forced repossession, has become much less common, while negative equity has been disappearing like the melting snow. Look in any estate agent's window and you will see the results. Remember those prop-

The next housing slowdown is on the way



ROGER BOOTLE

erties which had been hanging around for years as their owners clung on desperately to what they thought their property had been worth in 1989? Even some of these are now moving.

The next stage, for those who can remember housing booms of the past, is when people talk about having to buy now or face never being able to "get on the ladder again". Later, people who already own substantial houses fret about having to buy another property for fear that their children will never be able to afford to buy. In my experience, that signals the absolute peak of the market.

I doubt if it will get that bad again. Although the market is now genuinely much stronger, this is not before time. The current recovery still leaves most properties worth less than they were at the peak in 1989.

Besides, in contrast to the estate agents' hype, the housing market recovery is now slowing. On the Halifax figures, in the latest three months, seasonally adjusted, house prices rose by about 1 per cent, compared with 2.75 per cent in the previous quarter. Furthermore, last week's figures from the building societies showed the level of mortgage approvals, which is a guide to housing market activity and prices in a few months' time, continuing to fall.

It is true that price rises in London have been much larger than the national average — 17 per cent on average for Greater London. Moreover, sales abound of 30 and 40 per cent increases in Kensington and Chelsea, which those on the wine bar circuit are inclined to take as some index of conditions more generally. Yet not only are Kensington and

Chelsea not all there is to the UK, but in an economic sense, I am tempted to say that they are not part of the UK at all. They represent London's international city, located here but dancing to a different beat. Prospective buyers from across the world — Hong Kong, Japan, Russia, Germany, the Middle East and the US —

compare properties there with equivalents at home and with alternatives in Paris, Rome, New York and Tokyo. Over the last few years they have been swarming over properties in central London and engaging in a bidding war. If, however, you are trying to sell No 39 Acacia Avenue, Penge, I doubt whether you have been besieged by Russians bearing suitcases full of cash.

In fact, even central London may be set to cool. The reason is partly that prices have risen so far already, but it is also the influence of the exchange rate, which is up by some 20 per cent over the last year. If you are comparing London prices with equivalents abroad this has to be added to the 30 or 40 per cent increase in sterling prices. On a foreign currency basis, central London prices may be up by 50 or 60 per cent over the year.

However, the real reason for believing that we are not on the brink of another national house price explosion is the connection between the property market and the economy in general. House price rises of 10 per cent or more do not mix with 3 per cent general inflation. One or other has to give. Now you may believe that in this country rapid rates of house price rises are more deep-rooted than sustained low inflation. Accordingly, if something has to give, it will be inflation.

Have I got news for you? The transformation in official attitudes to inflation in general and the housing market in particular is profound.

Once the election is out of the way, no matter who wins it, if the pace of economic recovery does not show signs of slowing of its own accord, then policy action will be

taken to slow it. This means higher interest rates, higher taxes, or both. And waiting in the wings is the possible abolition of mortgage interest rate tax relief, which Treasury officials have been desperate to do to death for years.

The moral is clear. Do not make the same mistake twice. Owner occupation remains an extremely good deal, but property speculation is not a licence to print money. The supposedly unstoppable housing boom of 1988 quickly turned into the soggy market of 1989 and then the disaster of 1990.

In these times of sustained low inflation you would do well to keep in mind the warning which would have been well-heeded in 1988. As they say in another context: "Remember, prices can go down as well as up."

□ Roger Bootle's book, *The Death of Inflation - Surviving and Thriving in the Zero Era*, will be published in paperback on April 24 at £9.99 by Nicholas Brealey (0171-430 0224).

Row overshadows last AGM of mutual Halifax

BY NATHAN YATES

THE last annual meeting of the Halifax Building Society, taking place today before the £10 billion stock market flotation in June, will be marked by a row with disaffected members.

Directors of the demutualising society face fierce criticism over instructions from the board to the Halifax's 8.5 million voting members. A document included with the AGM invitation urges members not to cast their votes for two candidates who have had a sceptical attitude towards flotation.

The document identifies board nominees Steve Laurie

and Peter Judge, leaders of the anti-demutualisation Halifax Action Group, as a threat to windfall payouts. It claims that, even if elected, the two men would have no board-room role after the society converts to plc status in June.

The move has outraged the Halifax Action Group, which will mount a protest at today's AGM, at Halifax's Victoria Theatre. "The board are carrying out a smear campaign against us, and we will be confronting them about these comments," said Mr Laurie, who has campaigned against the flotation since its inception. He added: "It is a ridiculous

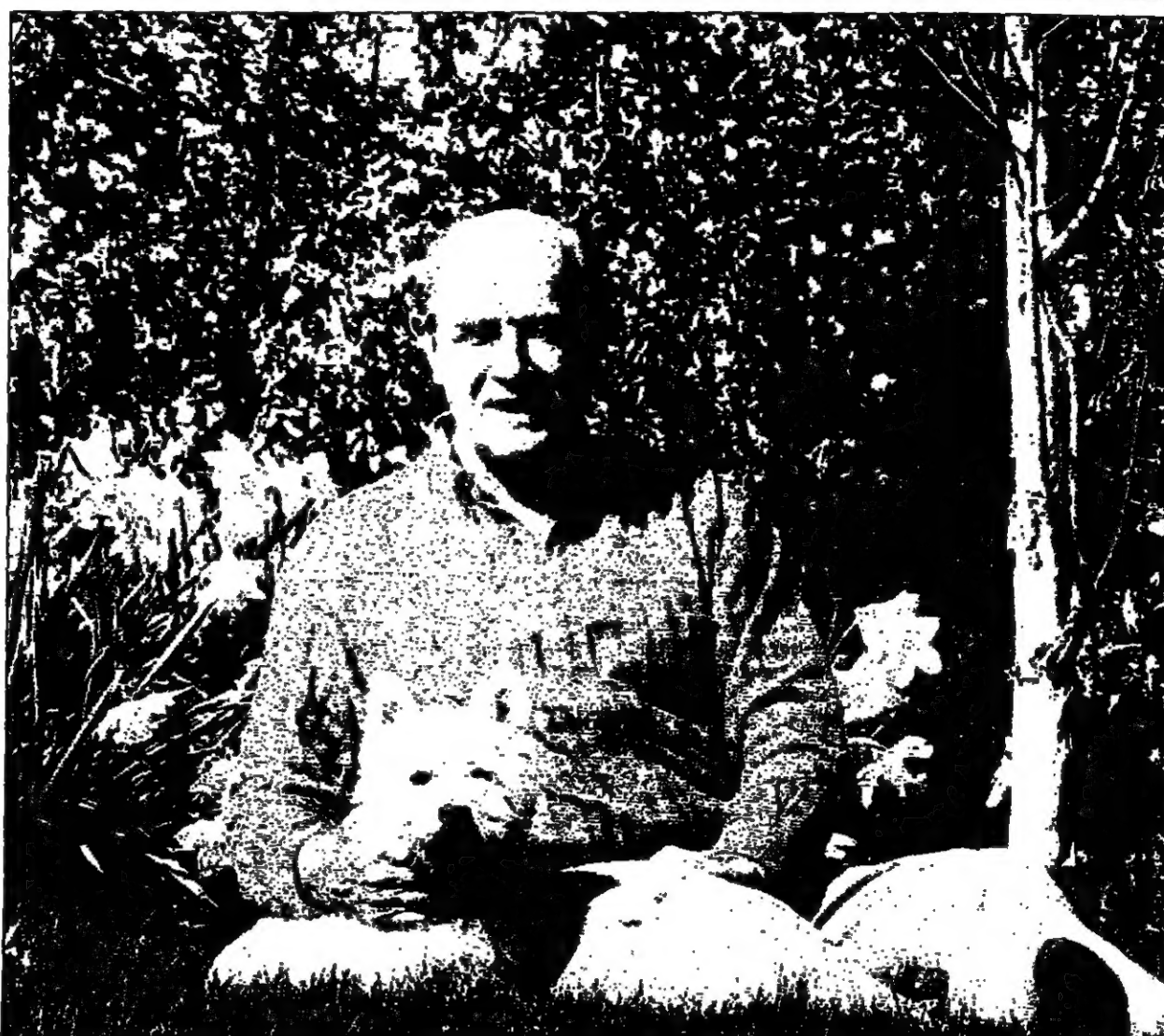
overreaction to say we pose a threat to free share dividends. And it is disgraceful to suggest that we would be excluded from the board of Halifax plc. We have as much right to stand as anyone else."

Mr Laurie claims that demutualisation will mean poorer deals for Halifax customers, with lower rates on savings accounts and higher mortgage costs. He will table a motion at today's meeting designed to prevent the use of flotation proceeds to boost directors' salaries to "fat cat" levels.

The Halifax denies that conversion would fuel salary rises or damage services. "The decision to become a plc has been arrived at democratically, and the overwhelming majority of members do not support the views of Mr Laurie and Mr Judge," a spokesman said. Jon Foulds, Halifax chairman, said: "It is sad that such a great organisation as the Halifax Building Society is ending on a note of acrimony."

Directors do not expect today's row to derail the demutualisation process. Halifax members approved conversion to plc status in February by a majority of 97 per cent, and the society is on course to become the country's fifth-largest bank. Tomorrow, the Halifax will start to inform members of their share allocations, giving them the option to sell, hold or place their shares in a personal equity plan (Pepl).

Savers and borrowers who had more than £100 in their accounts on the qualifying dates will receive 200 shares each, with a predicted value of £1,500. Members with more than £1,000 in their accounts on the same dates will receive an additional variable bonus.



Peter Kininmonth, who has set up an insurance brokerage at the age of 73, takes time out at his 1,200-acre Dorset farm

Bank boards face tough questions

BY ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

DIRECTORS of Barclays and NatWest will face tough questions from shareholders tomorrow when the two banks hold their respective annual general meetings.

NatWest investors, in particular, are expected to press the board, led by Lord Alexander of Weedon, about the £90 million "black hole" found in the derivatives department of the bank's market trading arm last month. They will want to know why the huge discrepancy went undetected for more than two years and how a repeat will be prevented.

The black hole will be central to a speech by Rory Murphy, general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, who is standing for election

on the board. He said: "I will ask shareholders to choose between someone who lost £90 million or someone who readily admits to losing £25 of his own money on the 3.15 race at Kempton."

The Barclays board will be quizzed on how BZW, the bank's global investment banking arm, might be expected to show the rewards from the massive investment programme in both systems and highly paid executives that have been paid in place over the past year. When Barclays unveiled its annual results in February, it reported that BZW's contribution had fallen by £85 million to £204 million.

City Diary, page 50

Three times a broker

AT the tender age of 73, Peter Kininmonth is going for third time lucky on the Lloyd's insurance market. Having founded two firms and at an age when most would be enjoying retirement, Mr Kininmonth has started a new insurance broker, PW Kininmonth, which has signed its first senior executives, is launched today.

"I am building up a company with the intention of losing control of it to those who created it," he said. "After all, the actuaries tell me that I shall no longer be here in ten years."

Set-top boxes near to launch

BY ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM and BSkyB are on the verge of creating a £500 million company designed to hasten the market penetration of hundreds of new digital-TV channels.

The Interactive Services Company (Isco) is being formed to subsidise the retail price of set-top boxes that customers will need to receive and decode digital channels. The boxes will probably carry a price tag of £200, compared to a factory price of £500 or more.

BT has been in negotiations

with BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, for five months and is expected to emerge as Isco's single biggest shareholder. BSkyB, Midland Bank and Matsushita, the Japanese electronics company, will own the rest. Their collective investment will probably range from £400 million to £600 million, all of which will be used to subsidise the boxes.

In return, Isco's four owners are to share in the revenue generated by the interactive

services, such as home banking and home shopping, made possible by the set-top boxes.

Isco's shareholders may also subsidise and market the set-top boxes to be used by British Digital Broadcasting if it wins the licence to offer digital terrestrial channels. BDB is owned by Carlton and Granada, the two largest TV companies, and BSkyB.

Isco will have to be launched in the next month or so if the boxes are to be in the shops by Christmas.

Eurotunnel holds out hopes for refinancing

Eurotunnel will this week provide shareholders with an upbeat assessment of current trading and hold out hope that the long-delayed refinancing with the company's banks may soon be agreed.

The company is producing figures for the 1996 financial year that will be of only academic interest, showing a reduction on the Channel Tunnel operator's record £925 million pre-tax loss for 1995. The City will be reassured by news of encouraging traffic figures after the dip caused by the fire in November.

By June the tunnel should be running at full capacity again, once heavy goods vehicles are allowed back through in time for the key summer season. Eurotunnel's banks are thought to be ready to sign the refinancing deal announced in October, which will mean heavy dilution for ordinary shareholders but put an end to long-running talks about financial reconstruction, and Patrick Ponsolle, the chairman, is expected to have good news on this as well.

Imro invests

The City watchdog responsible for imposing a record £2 million fine on Morgan Grenfell last week is to step up its regulatory role by investing heavily in new staff. The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) revealed yesterday that it had already doubled the number of people employed in supervision and intended to allocate further "considerable resources" in 1997 and 1998. Imro fined Morgan Grenfell after the scandal surrounding Peter Young, the unit trust manager who was sacked for gross misconduct last autumn after it emerged he had broken City rules on investing. Phillip Thorpe, Imro chief executive, said the "professionals in the regulatory business are the key to our success as a frontline regulator".

Pay stable

Pay awards in the manufacturing sector have remained broadly stable, according to a new CBI survey, averaging 3.2 per cent for the three months to March 1997, unchanged from the previous three months, and down from 3.5 per cent for the three months to March 1996. Almost four in ten manufacturers said low prices were keeping pay awards down: up from a third in the previous survey. Pay awards in the services sector fell slightly, from 3.8 per cent in the three months to December to 3.7 per cent in the three months to March.

Clark settles

John Clark, former chief executive of BET, has ended his legal battle with Rentokil Initial by accepting an out-of-court settlement that will give him £2.25 million in compensation. Mr Clark, 55, rejected a £950,000 payment from Rentokil last year, when it won BET in a £2.3 billion hostile takeover, and then went on to win a £2.85 million award in the High Court. Rentokil said the award was excessive but pursued a negotiated settlement to avoid further court costs.

East Midlands backs down on director's contract terms

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A LEGAL fight between two electricity companies has ended after East Midlands backed down from holding a key director to fight contract obligations which would have prevented him joining The Energy Group for two years.

The climbdown, which came just after the brink of a High Court action, has important implications for how companies can bind employees to contracts after East Midlands relinquished its demand that its managing director of supply serve a year's notice on garden leave and take a further year out of the power industry.

Jim Keohane, who moves in October to The Energy Group, where John Devaney is chief executive and managing director, had been employed on the basis that he would give a year's notice in his resignation and would then be prohibited from working for a rival

company for another year. East Midlands had issued a writ against Mr Keohane which would have stopped him leading supply at The Energy Group and devising that company's 1998 programme. Mr Keohane had been instrumental in drafting East Midlands' market plans.

The clash between the two businesses came at a critical time — when both are planning strategies for next year's liberalisation of household electricity. Then the companies, which are now monopolies, will be rivals in a free-for-all market.

But the demand from East Midlands that Mr Keohane should serve that notice away from his work was challenged by lawyers. They argued that his skills would have suffered if he spent such a long spell out of work. East Midlands also let pass the stipulation that he should not join a rival company for a year.

Mr Keohane has been on garden leave from East Midlands since resigning in January. Neither East Midlands nor The Energy Group would comment on the dispute.



Devaney: critical time

Institute urges a rethink over pensions

THE next government should borrow all the £33 billion a year needed to pay state pensions or raise it through consumption taxes such as VAT in order to privatise the basic state pension much faster than Conservatives have proposed, a new plan by American economists urges (Graham Scragg writes).

The proposal, published by the Adam Smith Institute, would more than double the public sector borrowing requirement throughout the next Parliament or require VAT rates to rise by two thirds. The free-market think-tank says this would be much better than levying national insurance contributions to pay the pensions and would leave everyone better off.

By allowing people to use the national insurance contributions to save for private pensions or to spend, the reform would at least double the rate of growth of the economy, so that extra borrowing need only last for ten years.

Mr Rowan, who says he has been frozen out by the remaining directors and not even given notice of the board meeting that approved the last report and accounts, wants this sum at least paid to the minority shareholders he represents. MIU, which bought the company as part of a hostile takeover of a much larger Malaysian group last August, was unavailable for comment.

Names group sues Lloyd's for larger slice of refund

BY ADAM JONES

A NAMES action group whose members include Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, who has been tipped as a possible Lloyd's chief, is suing Lloyd's of London over expenses incurred in litigation and the last-ditch restructuring of the society. The action is expected to be the first of several from names' bodies.

Sir Richard Body, the Conservative MP for Holland with Boston, is appearing as the nominal plaintiff on behalf of the 100 members of the Rose Thomson Young Names Action Group. The group will today serve Lloyd's with a writ demanding a payment of £1,564,227.

The action group had originally claimed £5.4 million from a £75 million pool set aside by Lloyd's in the reconstruction and renewal arrangements. It has been paid £2.6 million and the sum now

being claimed represents a scaled-down overall demand.

Ian Chalk, chairman of the action group, said: "A number of action groups are dissatisfied with the way they have been treated over refunds." He

said Lloyd's had failed to answer enquiries and that other action groups received much more consultation over expenses claims.

Lloyd's said it received claims of £106 million for the £75 million set aside for refunds. A spokesman said there was no more money for groups unhappy with their scaled-down awards: "I don't know where we would get it from."

The breakdown Lloyd's provided when paying the £2.6 million showed it had slashed the amount claimed by members of the action group's committee for professional services and remuneration. The committee, which includes Sir David Berriman, the former Lloyd's chairman, had requested £2 million and received just £77,000. The writ said this was "unfair, arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable".



Lang: tipped for top job

Pengkalen director fights for sweet justice

BY MARTIN WALLER

A LONDON businessman has taken up the cudgels on behalf of 500 minority shareholders in a defunct sweetmaker controlled by a large Malaysian conglomerate.

Michael Rowan is non-executive director of Pengkalen (UK) — until he carries out his intention to resign at the company's annual meeting on

April 24. This he says he will do only if a letter he has written to the company secretary of Pengkalen, and its only identifiable employee left in the UK, is read to the meeting.

If not, he will stay on and defy the Malaysian owners of the company to fire him.

Pengkalen was one of a number of forgotten, extinct companies that still litter the Stock Exchange trading

screens until its 33 per cent controlling shareholder, Malaysian United International, had the shares delisted last month.

This has left the minority shareholders, described by Mr Rowan as "mainly widows, orphans and trustees", with no means of exit. The shares had been suspended since October, at a price that values the minority holdings at just £325,000.

Mr Rowan, who says he has been frozen out by the remaining directors and not even given notice of the board meeting that approved the last report and accounts, wants this sum at least paid to the minority shareholders he represents. MIU, which bought the company as part of a hostile takeover of a much larger Malaysian group last August, was unavailable for comment.

Pengkalen, once known as Grand Central Investment, owned the Melits sweets brand, maker of the once-popular New Berry Fruits range, but the receivers went in at Melits in April. The Stock Exchange said that after delisting a company ceased to be covered by its rules. But Mr Rowan added: "It exposes to my mind a big loophole in the protection offered by the Stock Exchange."

For The Direct
Mortgage
see page 14

Alliance & Leicester joins the big boys on the block

Caroline Merrell
on the stormy
transition to the
high street and
where the A&L
goes from here

Alliance & Leicester makes its stock market debut today, the first of the building societies to float in the £30 billion demutualisation bonanza of 1997. It has taken the society 18 frenzied months to prepare to shed its 144-year-old tradition of mutuality.

This period has been marked by considerable controversy, including a row with Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, over the Building Societies Act 1997 and resistance from larger savers to the structure of the share scheme.

Investors, such as the Duke of Rutland, objected to the democratic system of distribution under which all qualifying savers and borrowers received an equal number of 250 shares each.

The row with Mrs Knight was settled by the gift of a Christmas pudding. Some of the larger savers are still simmering with rage.






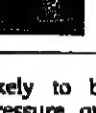
To inform these customers and the rest of its membership, about the flotation mechanism, the A&L consumed more than 800 tonnes of environmentally friendly paper. The transfer documents, mailed out in October, filled 37 lorries alone.

However, the trees have not died in vain. The projected market capitalisation of the society has risen from around £2.5 billion to £2.9 billion since the transfer document was mailed out in October. The shares are now expected to climb to 520p, compared with the 385p to 435p price estimated six months ago by JP Morgan, A&L's City advisers.

The share price may well be given a further boost on June 23, when the new bank joins the All Share Index. At that point, the index tracking funds, which together hold between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of the shares in the UK market, will chase A&L shares.

Stockbroking analysts attribute the rise in the expected value of the bank to a recovery in the banking sector. Over the past six months, the housing market has begun to show some real signs of sustained recovery. Nearly two-thirds of Alliance & Leicester's £399 million total profit came from mortgage lending and investments.

However, profit margins on this side of the business are

BUILDING SOCIETY PAYOUTS			
Building Society	1997 Flotation Date	Number of Beneficiaries	Market Capitalisation
 ALLIANCE + LEICESTER	April 21	2.4 million	£2,758 million
 HALIFAX	June 2	8.5 million	£11,561 million
 NORTHERN ROCK	October 1	900,000	£1,185 million
 WOOLWICH	July 7	2.57 million	£3,106 million
 ABBEY NATIONAL	n/a	n/a	£10,111 million
 NORWICH UNION	June	3 million	£5 billion

likely to be under intense pressure over the next few years, as competition from other organisations, including those remaining mutual, grows fiercer.

Abbey National, for example, the first building society to float in 1999, has seen its share of the new mortgage market drop from 12.5 per cent last year to 2.5 per cent this year. It said it had not offered particularly competitive products this year, because it felt that most of the new business around consisted of remortgages, which do not add substantially to profits.

The new high street bank will be substantially smaller than its neighbours and many analysts believe that it will find it difficult to compete in an already overcrowded market.

For instance, Lloyds TSB has a market capitalisation of £26 billion, Barclays £16 billion, and NatWest £12 billion. Alliance & Leicester is also dwarfed by the £10 billion Abbey National, and the Halifax, which is expected to have a market capitalisation of £11 billion when it floats in the summer.

The Alliance & Leicester does not have the brand image enjoyed by the Halifax, which has a relationship with one in five households in the UK. The powerful Halifax also sets the price of mortgages for the whole industry.

The A&L expects its profits to reach £368 million this year and £413 million in 1998. It is also planning to operate a progressive dividend policy.

The dividend has been set for 16p. The 2.2 million members of the society have been substantially rewarded with 250 shares for relinquishing membership.

Perhaps the most handsomely rewarded beneficiaries of the flotation will be the five-strong executive team. They, alone among the management teams of the four floating societies, are rewarding themselves with share options. The granting of the options will be dependent on the Alliance &

These shares could benefit from merger acquisition and takeover activity

Leicester achieving certain performance targets.

One of the targets is growth in earnings per share of 3 per cent above inflation. Brokers believe that this will be easily achievable. A takeover or merger would also lead to the share options being exercised.

Executive salaries will also be boosted by a bonus scheme. As much as 40 per cent of executive salary could be earned in this way. Peter White, group chief executive, earned £92,000 last year in a mixture of salary, bonus and benefits.

The society is unique among those converting in that it already has experience of re-

tail banking through its Girobank subsidiary. This bank contributed 18 per cent of the total pre-tax profits to the society last year.

BZW said: "It is the market leader in corporate cash transmission and processed more than £70 billion in 1996. Girobank handles cash, cheques, credit card payments for the corporate customers in retailing, wholesaling and other business sectors."

"Cash is collected through Post Offices. Girobank also offers a 24-hour telephone banking service, unlike the other floating societies. Unsecured personal loans are also available. Personal banking contributed 20 per cent to profits."

Justin Urquhart Stewart, managing director of Barclays Stockbrokers, thinks that Alliance & Leicester shares are a hold. He said: "A&L is an experienced bank; the shares are ones to be kept. This is better than a sale of the family silver. It's the sale of the family silver."

After the flotation of the society the management intends to grow the business organically and through cost reduction. The Alliance & Leicester has already cut branches by 11 per cent and reduced staff by 1 per cent over the past two years.

The society has a high cost to income ratio of 51 per cent on its core loans and mortgage business and 82 per cent on its Girobank subsidiary. This compares with the 33 per cent ratio achieved by Northern Rock. A&L is committed to

reducing costs by 10 per cent in the next 12 months. It is unwilling to commit itself to retaining all of its 10,000 or more staff.

Woolwich, which is bigger than A&L, employs 7,451, down 11 per cent on the previous year.

Shareholders in the Alliance & Leicester could also benefit from a takeover. Unlike the Halifax, the A&L has not waived its right to five-year protection from takeover.

However, this right will disappear if a purchase of another company is made, or if the bidder gets more than 75 per cent of the shares. BZW, the broker, believes that a bid could push share prices to between 620p to 685p, valuing the bank at £4 billion.

The A&L may take a gamble on making a purchase, hoping that it, too, will not become a victim of a predator. It may prefer to go for a big merger or a joint venture, which will provide some sort of protection against a bidder.

Mr Urquhart Stewart said: "These shares could benefit from merger acquisition and takeover activity."

He and others believe that increasing competition from the mutual societies, which in theory should be able to offer better savings and mortgage rates, will not have much impact on the performance of the demutualised societies. He said: "They will be much more nimble than the mutual organisations."

Health and wealth

Mrs Cohen's Money
Channel 4, 8.00pm

The forthright Mrs Bernice Cohen turns to the insurance industry and she is not very flattering about it. She accuses the companies of being so busy chasing profits that they have lost sight of what they were set up to do, to offer us protection. She reserves much of her anger for health insurance, claiming that companies frighten us into taking out policies and then do their best to avoid paying out. As evidence, Cohen introduces us to a woman who developed multiple sclerosis, thought she was covered by a serious illness policy but had her claim rejected because her test results were normal.

The Entertainers
Channel 4, 8.30pm

The second part of Irene Cockcroft's look at club entertainers is introduced in the style of an American soap opera with a resumé of previous plotlines. It is a reminder that the strategy is to hook the viewer by following the same acts from episode to episode. Tonight, therefore, we see the debuts of Tara Lee and Lianne Doherty, the young singers featured last week, and discover how the group Groove Club fares after having to find a replacement at short notice. At the same time we are introduced to a new face (new to most of us, but not to the profession) in Sue Sweeney, a veteran singer who is turning to comedy in an attempt to prolong her career.

Bramwell
ITV, 9.00pm

Lucy Gannon's Victorian hospital drama returns for a third series, as smoothly-crafted as ever. There is no great depth to the show and some of its storylines, such as the on-off romance between Emma Redgrave's Dr Eleanor and the devious Irish surgeon (Andrew Connolly), are distinctly banal. But with half a



Connolly and Redgrave (ITV, 9.00pm)

dozen other strands competing for attention, the clichés seem less prominent. Moral dilemmas loom large. Should Dr Eleanor take money for her cash-strapped East End hospital from a brewer, bearing in mind the social evils of drink? The question is neatly complicated by the fact that the wealthy widow who owns the brewery (Maureen Beattie) is being courted by Eleanor's Dad (David Calder).

The Surgery
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Rusholme and Moss Side in Manchester may be deprived areas but they are lucky to have such dedicated GPs as the trio featured in this documentary. These doctors seem to turn nobody away, refuse to be daunted by intractable cases and often go beyond their strictly medical remit to help patients in trouble. Tonight's concluding film shows the surgery dealing with the homeless, the elderly and the chronically sick. The level of concern is impressive, whether it is taking on a family with nowhere to live, no work and a new baby, or trying to ensure that two women crippled by multiple sclerosis are made as comfortable as possible in their own homes. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Late Book: High Fidelity.
Radio 4, 12.30am

Not everyone would have named the comedian Alan Davies as first choice to read Nick Hornby's latest novel, which means Davies was an inspired choice because he makes an excellent job of it. The book is markedly different from Hornby's best-selling *High Fidelity* but the tone and the close observations on life are recognisable in both. The lead character in *High Fidelity* is Rob Fleming, at first sight a blokeish sort of bloke who, when Laura, his girlfriend of ten years runs off with the man in the upstairs flat, re-organises his record collection: a more manly therapy than weeping. But, as Fleming discovers following the death of Laura's father, relationships never end, they merely alter.

Monday Play: At the Base of the Pyramid.
Radio 4, 7.45pm

This is not the most cheering piece of work on radio this week but Gary Mitchell's play has grit, pace and the smack of authentic backgrounds and voices, all of which combine to make it immensely listenable. The central character is Sally, an Ulster woman trying to cope with life in a dysfunctional family at the bottom of the social pile. Her husband is a loyalist prisoner, her sister is an out of work airhead and her mother is bedridden. And then there is the matter of the guns her husband has left stashed in the attic. When Sally's thoughts turn to an alternative use for those, the drama cranks up. Maria Connolly is excellent in the lead role, ably supported by Katy Tuniety, Maureen Dowd and Dan Gordon. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Kevin Greening 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo White 1.00pm The Carpenters 2.00 The Beatles 3.00 The Rolling Stones 4.00 The Who 5.00 The Kinks 6.00 The Small Faces 7.00 The Yard 8.00 The Jam 9.00 The Sex Pistols 10.00 The Clash 11.00 The Buzzcocks 12.00 The Fall

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 12.00 Debbie Thorne 2.00 Ed Stewart 3.00 John Dunn 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Malcolm Lockwood 9.00 Big Band Special 9.30 Hayes on Brian 10.30 Richard Atkinson 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Leslie

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.00 The Magazine with Diane Maddif 12.00 Midday with Mar, includes at 12.35pm Moneyspot 2.00 Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Great Clubs of Europe 8.00 The Monday Munch Coventry City v Arsenal 10.00 Brian Hayes's Election Night 12.00 After Hours with Paul Hermit and Linda McDermott 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Wan 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deasy 7.00 Moe Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Mike Dickinson

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Mozart (Symphony No 25 in G minor, K 183); Dvořák (Violin Concerto in A minor); Shostakovich (Prelude and Fugue, Op 87 No 11); Bach (Violin Concerto in E, BWV1042); Bernstein (Overture: Candide)
9.00 Morning Collection, with Penny Gore. Includes: Myriadesque (Symphony in B flat, Op 23 No 6); The Water Goblin
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Peter Burton-Page. Includes Wagner (Tannhäuser, excerpt); Saint-Saëns (Cello Sonata in C, Op 32); Janáček (Violin Concerto); Haydn (Symphony No 50); Faure (Cello Sonata in G minor, Op 117 No 2); Vaughan Williams (Piano Progress, excerpts)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Sergei Rachmaninov. Music from one of the last great performer/composers. Includes Preludes in G, Op 32 No 5; Prelude in E flat, Op 23 No 6
1.00pm News: BBC Newsnight. Live from St John's Smith Square, London. Paul Meyer, clarinet, Eric Le Sage, piano. Includes Schumann (Fantasy Pieces, Op 73); Stravinsky (Three Pieces for Clarinet Solo); Debussy (Estampes for Piano); Brahms (Clarinet Sonata in E flat, Op 120 No 2)
2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC National Orchestra of Wales, with Tadeusz Olszak, with Christian Lindberg, trombone. Includes: Janáček (Violin Concerto); Overture: The Hobbits; Fingal's Cave; Takemitsu (Fantasme-cantata II); Bruch (Violin Concerto No 1 in G minor); Dvořák (Symphony No 8 in G)
3.45 Everything but the Crazyhouse Russell Davies traces the career of Sidney Bechet. Following a short spell in a Parisian jail, Bechet returned to

New York to start a traditional jazz revival (3/6)
4.15 Music Restored. Excerpts from a concert given by Sequenza, last month at the Wigmore Hall, London (1)
5.00 Music Machine: Life in the Slow Lane, with Tommy Pearson
5.15 In Tune, with Anthony Burton. Includes Nicola Leleu (Nocturne); Mendelssohn (Piano Concerto No 1 in G minor); Debussy (La Mer)
7.30 BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Jiri Belohlavek. Live from the Festival Hall in London. With Garmik Ohlsson, piano; Prokofiev (Suite: The Love of Three Oranges); Bartók (Piano Concerto No 1) 8.15 A Future in the Past. The architectural critic Rodenak O'Donovan looks at Viennese architecture (1) 8.35 Concert part two. Schubert (Symphony No 4 in C minor, Tragic)
9.15 Sicilian Voices: The Myth of Sicily. Joe Farrell introduces a series exploring the life, history and literature of Sicily (1/5)
9.35 Sicilian Dances. A selection of music tracing the syllables of the 18th century to the syllables of the 20th. Anon/Rosaphylli, trans. Romero (Sicilians, Ancient Airs and Dances Suite No 3); Jean-Michel Denisse (Sicilienne)
10.00 Voices. Ian Burdele introduces the Radio 3 debut of the Canadian baritone Russell Braun. With Roger Vignoles, piano; Faure (L'Horizon Chimérique, Op 18); Massenet (Poème de Sœur Marie; Faure (Con Quichotte a Dulce)
10.45 Mixing it, with Mark Russell and Robert Sandall. 11.30 Composers of the Week: Forgotten Giants of 18th-Century Opera (1)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather remembers some unsung British jazz players
1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes Thought for the Day 6.50 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Election Call. Peter Sissons puts listeners' questions to the Home Secretary Michael Howard. Simultaneous broadcast with BBC1. Call 0345 514614
10.00 News (FM) With Great Pleasure (FM), Allen Gribble introduces a selection of prose and poetry (2/6)
10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray. Miriam Margulies reads Henry James' The Portrait of a Lady (1/12)
11.30 Money Box Live. Vincent Duggdale takes listeners' calls on personal finance. Call 0171 58044
12.00 News: You and Yours (FM)
12.25pm Brain of Britain: First Round — South of England. The general knowledge quiz chaired by Robert Robinson 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 News: Judith Shakespeare, by Nan Woodhouse. The story of the Bard's younger daughter, a loner at odds with 17th-century Stratford. With Amanda Root and Michael Pennington (1)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor and guests
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker reviews Dance Like a Man, opening at the Leicester Haymarket. Jatinder Varma has transposed the setting of the play from India to Britain. Plus Stacey Kent and her quartet perform in the studio
4.45 Short Story: Resurrection, by Elizabeth Buchan.

The tale of a gardener, a grieving widower, who loves both the soil and his first wife. Read by Christopher Scott
5.00 PM, with Kevin Bouquess and Charlie Lee-Potter 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The News Quiz. Simon Hoggart is joined by Francis Whear, Jeremy Hardy, Sandi Toksvig and Times columnist Alan Coren (1)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.30 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (1) 7.45 The Monday Play: At the Base of the Pyramid. See Choice
9.15 Bottoms, Beasts, Beliefs and Feet. Caroline Sari contemplates the human navel (3/4) (1)
9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
10.45 Book at Bedtime: One of Ours. The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel abridged by Katie Campbell marking the 50th anniversary of author Willa Cather's death. Nineteen-year old Claude Wheeler struggles to find a meaning in his life. Read by Ian Porter (1/12)
11.00 The Heritage Quiz. Sue MacGregor puts questions to Christopher Cook, Phillips Gregory, Janet Suzman and Martin Wainwright on subjects ranging from pubs to opera to Shakespeare and the National Gallery (1/6) (1)
11.30 Civil and Scames. Christopher Lee's story of two intelligence officers investigating the suspicious death of an elderly priest. With Amanda Redman, Dudley Sutton and Christopher Benjamin (4/6) (1)
12.00 News Inc 12.27am approx Weather 12.30am Late Book: High Fidelity. See Choice 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 150; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 609. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 138 (12.45-5.55am). Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Deer, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Virgin rebuffs cab pick-up

JAMIE BOWWICK's bid to impress Richard Branson has backfired. The chief executive of Manganese Bronze, the cab-makers, went to extraordinary lengths to show his enthusiasm for a deal to ferry Virgin passengers from the airport. Off his own bat, Bowwick decorated a cab in Virgin colours. The first Branson knew of it was when Will Whitehorn, his corporate affairs director, spotted it in the City. But Branson neither wanted to buy the cab nor cut a deal: Virgin has an arrangement with Tristar. All is not lost: Bowwick was given a first-class ticket to anywhere and there's always Virgin's rail business.



Bowwick: decorated own vehicle in livery of Virgin

Party-poopers

FOR the first time politicians will not be present at Wednesday's Institute of Directors annual convention. This year it will be Robert Ayling, of British Airways, Stuart Hampson, of the John Lewis Partnership, and Daniel Wagner, of MAID. More importantly, the ever-popular lunch boxes, which will feature grilled salmon and apricot coulis, are being put together by top chef, Albert Roux. There will also be handsets for delegates to vote on anything that Tim Melville-Ross, IOD director-general, says in his speech.

Local difficulty

SIR Alan Walters, vice-chairman of the American Insurance Group, is finding life as the Referendum Party candidate for the Cities of London

and Westminster a little difficult. The 71-year-old economist tells me almost everyone in the constituency lives in apartments, guarded fiercely by burly porters. And the great majority hail from abroad — only he and his wife have a vote on their street.

PATSY BLOOM, the founder of Pet Plan who made £16.2 million when she sold her company to Cornhill Insurance, was extolling the virtues of the Venne Cligout Business Woman of the Year award at last week's ceremony. A past winner, Ms Bloom pointed out that Sophie Mirman, former chairman of Sock Shop, is the only black spot in the award's 24-year history. "She went belly-up, but didn't she do it with style?" she said.

On his bike

IF Rory Murphy, general secretary of the NatWest Staff Association, doesn't unseat one of his bosses in tomorrow's board election, he is making noises about a bike ride from the Himalayas to the Taj Mahal. Not having ridden a bike until nine months ago, Murphy is rarely out of the saddle.

BRIAN KEELAN, the SBC Warburg director advising CWS, felt "a bit like a drowned rat" at the weekend. Just back from Hong Kong on Thursday, he was rushed to Manchester to deal with developments. "At least you can get a decent Chinese meal in Manchester," he said ruefully.

MORAG PRESTON

Beyond

Beyond satire — probably beyond rescue

What, I wonder, would William Hogarth, "the father of British art," have made of New Baywatch (TV, Saturday)? Not a question I'd address on a Monday morning (or any other morning come to that) but thanks to last night's enlightening Hogarth's Progress (BBC2) I feel up to having a preliminary stab.

According to Andrew Graham-Dixon, Hogarth thought the most beautiful forms were always curvy — which is why, I suppose, he was so good at designing roundabouts. But number one in his top ten of curvy curves was "the serpentine line" at the well-laced heart of his much-mocked Theory of Beauty. In an age of bodice and stays, the gravity-defying serpentine lines of Greta Garbo and Yvonne de la Chapelle would have been beyond his wildest imaginings.

We can even hazard a guess at his reaction to the subsequent

discovery that such curves still require upholstery, but that these days it is worn internally. On the one hand, he would surely have deplored such vain artifice. He painted Sir Thomas Coram with a wig and, after a quick rethink, he did the same with his own self-portrait. Would he be consumed by the same doubts if Pamela Anderson Lee were to sit for him? "Sorry Pam, the silicone will have to go. I'll make the pug a bit bigger to make up for it."

As Graham-Dixon made clear, Hogarth was fascinated by "what happens when you strip away the flesh of a human being". In *The Corrupted Criminal* a dog is seen chewing at the guts of the dissected. No prizes for guessing what Fido would be gnawing at had his master ever got round to engraving *The Corrupted Criminal*.

On the other hand, Hogarth was an accomplished businessman and fully aware of the commercial

appeal of a little lubricious eroticism dressed up as fine art. Is not the equally aptly named C.J. Hooker simply the Moll Hackaday of his day? If television had existed, don't you think *The Harlot's Progress* would have been worth at least a mini-series? Just think of the fun Hogarth would have had with the casting.

But if Hogarth would have appreciated the commercial potential of *New Baywatch*, he would have hated the fact that it was American. He liked things to be British — beef-steak not beef-cake. In fact the only thing that might have saved it from a satirical mauling would have been if his arch enemy, the classically-minded William Kent, had taken a dislike to it first.

What David Hasselhoff, star and producer of the series would make of Hogarth is less certain. Indeed, after Saturday's dire open-



Matthew Bond

ing episode, what Hasselhoff makes of anything is unclear as he appears to have taken leave of his senses. His contributions to a paper-thin plot, that had less to it than a hip-high orange swim-suit, were three blink-and-you-missed-them (if you were lucky) scenes of him doing something to do with vampires. As everyone else was rushing about being search and rescue experts and flirting with the

firemen, it was all very confusing. Had Hogarth been painting this nonsense in one of his more high-minded moods, he would have had Congreve, Dryden and Shakespeare once again consigned to a dog-cart joined, I fear, by *The New Adventures of Superman*.

But before we get caught up in what Hogarth might have made of Lois Lane's serpentine line, let us move on. I had a spot of bother with the weekend's comedy — to wit, being too young to enjoy *East of the Summer Wine* (BBC1), a series which breaks the promise of its title by returning with monotonous regularity, and too old to enjoy *Sunnyside Farm* (BBC2, Friday). However, if the latter goes on to become the sort of cult success I think it might, this is definitely the time I will be admitting that I'll even own up to taking a paternity pride in understanding a cross-dressing brother. In an evening of many surprises, the cast

sentence I've probably lost a lot of you, but that is the sort of series that *Sunnyside Farm* is: isolating. It's foul-mouthed, much of its humour is derived from the slurry pit (a technical term I picked up from *The Archers*) and it enthusiastically embraces the sort of habits that force other television critics to find new jobs. If and when you get over the shock, it's funny... although I'm going to wait a few weeks before deciding whether "very" should be inserted in that sentence.

In structure, it's *Steed* and *Brother* move to Cold Comfort Farm and take too many drugs. Phil Daniels plays Ray — reluctant agrarian, fervent lecher and one of the strangest comic creations in a long time — while Mark Addy (so good in *The Thin Red Line*) plays his dim-witted, cross-dressing brother. In an evening of many surprises, the cast

also turned out to include those accomplished thespians Michael Kitchen and Beth Goddard. Kitchen turns out to be even better at comedy than his performance in *Reckless* suggested, while Goddard provides a straight but very pretty foil for the quite extraordinary performance put in by Daniels. It's part Harry H. Corbett and it's part something very strange indeed. Full credit to Andy de Emmony, the director — simply for keeping his nerve.

No credit, however, for *Last of the Summer Wine*, a series which lost its nerve years ago and now pursues a relentless policy of cheap laughs and loud caricatures, regardless of the damage done to Roy Clarke's original and brilliant idea. However, as Clarke wrote last night's episode he doesn't appear to mind and nor, after 25 years, does his mysteriously loyal audience. I wonder what Hogarth would have made of Nora Batty?

REVIEW

As HTV West except:

12.55pm A Country Practice (9411995)
1.50 Blue Healers (2048005)
2.50-3.20 High Road (5862656)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1260247)
6.25-6.55 Central News (211605)
8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)
10.45 Film: Twilight Zone (16298247)
12.40pm Sound Bites (7340358)
1.30 Stand and Deliver (35648)
2.30 Real Highway Patrol (3421700)
2.55 Film: The Hostage (7457551)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
1.25 High Road (7048689)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (2056624)
2.50-3.20 Ruth Meets the Entertainers (5862656)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1260247)
6.00-6.55 Westcountry News (780421)
8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)
10.45 A Tale of Three Farms (965711)
11.15 Love at First Sight (962624)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (248063)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55 A Country Practice (9411995)
1.50 Down by the River (3233000)
2.50-3.20 Blue Healers (1987044)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1260247)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (203686)
6.25-6.55 Country Ways (211605)
8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)
10.35 Meridian News and Weather (200082)
10.50 The Pier (748082)
11.20 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (965402)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (248063)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.55 A Country Practice (9411995)
1.50 Blue Healers (2048005)
2.50-3.20 Crownshew Paints (5862656)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1260247)
6.25-6.55 Anglia News (211605)
8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)
10.45 Film: The Anderson Tapes (16298247)

S4C

Starts: 9.30 Film: The Return of the Cuckoo (7048689) 10.45 Film: The Riders of the Purple Sage (7755353) 11.50 Gordon Bennett (606179) 12.00 Right to Reply (35337) 12.30pm Montel Williams (80179) 1.50 Slot Maitland (7994614) 1.15 Slot Y.C.I. (7994119) 1.30 Film: The Clouded Yellow (7651169) 3.15 Tower of Mice (975304) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (518) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (353) 4.30 The Last Days of Heligan (537) 5.00 5 Pump (8621957) 5.10 Fie! (860105) 5.20 Gogs (8621957) 5.30 Countdown (869) 6.00 Newydd (872315) 6.05 News (214702) 6.35 Bobo Yn Deuddeg (198957) 7.00 Pobl y Cwm (324063) 7.25 Y Jocs (862860) 8.00 Cwm Gardiol (4792) 8.30 Newydd (3529) 9.00 Etholled 97 (9711) 10.00 Etholled 97 (832089) 10.15 Sports (505266) 11.00 Newydd (1058) 11.30 Party Election Broadcast (207179) 11.35 NBA News (40757) 12.05am-1.35 Election Night Special (9265174)

TRAVEL

Gravestone High (10808) 12.00 Oscar's Orchestra (84334) 12.30pm Highway Across the Galaxy and Turn Left (85270) 1.00 By Way of the Stars (78570) 1.30 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 2.00 Crows (84811) 2.30 Corrie (89854) 3.00 Ocean Cruise (5112) 3.00 Art Attack (6599) 3.30 Flash Gordon (7957) 4.00 Batman (9792) 4.30-5.00 The Big Day (9978) 5.00 Close (9101247)

CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from 5.00pm to 6.00pm. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones.

NICKELDEON

6.00pm Cartoon Duet (12976) 6.30 Rocko's Modern Life (11624) 7.00 Hey Arnold! (46244) 7.30 Rugrats (25131) 8.00 Doug (4788) 8.30 Arthur (26880) 8.50 COPS (10264) 9.00 Wilma's House (66094) 9.30-10.00 11.00 MacGyver (8408) 11.30 Mr. McFlinty (96417) 12.00 Dark Shadows (923761) 12.30pm Lingo (8408) 1.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 1.30 The Old House (8408) 2.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 2.30 The Old House (8408) 3.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 3.30 The Old House (8408) 4.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 4.30 The Old House (8408) 5.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 5.30 The Old House (8408) 6.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 6.30 The Old House (8408) 7.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 7.30 The Old House (8408) 8.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 8.30 The Old House (8408) 9.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 9.30 The Old House (8408) 10.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 10.30 The Old House (8408) 11.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 11.30 The Old House (8408) 12.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 12.30 The Old House (8408)

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2.50-3.20 Blue Healers (1987044)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1260247)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (203686)
6.25-6.55 Country Ways (211605)
8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)
10.35 Meridian News and Weather (200082)
10.50 The Pier (748082)
11.20 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (965402)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (248063)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
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2.50-3.20 Crownshew Paints (5862656)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1260247)
6.25-6.55 Anglia News (211605)
8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)
10.45 Film: The Anderson Tapes (16298247)

S4C

Starts: 9.30 Film: The Return of the Cuckoo (7048689) 10.45 Film: The Riders of the Purple Sage (7755353) 11.50 Gordon Bennett (606179) 12.00 Right to Reply (35337) 12.30pm Montel Williams (80179) 1.50 Slot Maitland (7994614) 1.15 Slot Y.C.I. (7994119) 1.30 Film: The Clouded Yellow (7651169) 3.15 Tower of Mice (975304) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (518) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (353) 4.30 The Last Days of Heligan (537) 5.00 5 Pump (8621957) 5.10 Fie! (860105) 5.20 Gogs (8621957) 5.30 Countdown (869) 6.00 Newydd (872315) 6.05 News (214702) 6.35 Bobo Yn Deuddeg (198957) 7.00 Pobl y Cwm (324063) 7.25 Y Jocs (862860) 8.00 Cwm Gardiol (4792) 8.30 Newydd (3529) 9.00 Etholled 97 (9711) 10.00 Etholled 97 (832089) 10.15 Sports (505266) 11.00 Newydd (1058) 11.30 Party Election Broadcast (207179) 11.35 NBA News (40757) 12.05am-1.35 Election Night Special (9265174)

TRAVEL

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CARTOON NETWORK

Non-stop cartoons from 5.00pm to 6.00pm. Includes Tom and Jerry, Popeye and The Flintstones.

NICKELDEON

6.00pm Cartoon Duet (12976) 6.30 Rocko's Modern Life (11624) 7.00 Hey Arnold! (46244) 7.30 Rugrats (25131) 8.00 Doug (4788) 8.30 Arthur (26880) 8.50 COPS (10264) 9.00 Wilma's House (66094) 9.30-10.00 11.00 MacGyver (8408) 11.30 Mr. McFlinty (96417) 12.00 Dark Shadows (923761) 12.30pm Lingo (8408) 1.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 1.30 The Old House (8408) 2.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 2.30 The Old House (8408) 3.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 3.30 The Old House (8408) 4.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 4.30 The Old House (8408) 5.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 5.30 The Old House (8408) 6.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 6.30 The Old House (8408) 7.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 7.30 The Old House (8408) 8.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 8.30 The Old House (8408) 9.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 9.30 The Old House (8408) 10.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 10.30 The Old House (8408) 11.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 11.30 The Old House (8408) 12.00 The New Adventures of Star Trek (86241) 12.30 The Old House (8408)

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6.25-6.55 Central News (211605)
8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)
10.45 Film: Twilight Zone (16298247)
12.40pm Sound Bites (7340358)
1.30 Stand and Deliver (35648)
2.30 Real Highway Patrol (3421700)
2.55 Film: The Hostage (7457551)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
1.25 High Road (7048689)
1.55 Murder, She Wrote (2056624)
2.50-3.20 Ruth Meets the Entertainers (5862656)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1260247)
6.00-6.55 Westcountry News (780421)
8.00-8.30 The ITV 500: The People's Election (6150)
10.45 A Tale of Three Farms (965711)
11.15 Love at First Sight (962624)
11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (248063)

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PATTERN 47
Designs on
growth at
Laura Ashley

BUSINESS

MONDAY APRIL 21 1997

HOUSING 49

Slowdown on
the way, says
Roger Bootle



Crest faces sternest test as Alliance & Leicester floats

By MARIANNE CUPPHEE
AND GAVIN LUMSDEN

CRESTCO, the company behind the new Stock Exchange paperless electronic share settlement system, claimed last night to be "reasonably confident" that the system would survive today's Alliance & Leicester flotation.

Crest, the A&L float is the toughest test of its short life as up to 2.2 million new shareholders have the option to sell their shares immediately.

Some brokers have warned of a "meltdown" and say the system will struggle to cope with the volume of trades over the next few days.

Hugh Simpson, CrestCo company secretary, said Crest had taken steps to address brokers' concerns.

Opening hours had been extended to enable transactions to be processed more swiftly. Staff would be at their desks from 2am today. He said last night: "We are reasonably confident that the system will be able to cope."

His comments were less bullish than those of Iain Saville, CrestCo's chief executive, who claimed last week that he was "confident that these measures will assist the market to handle the expected volumes as efficiently as possible".

Today's flotation kicks off a summer of conversions that will test Crest to the limit. A&L's share price could begin trading at 500p, providing an average £1.250 windfall for its 2.5 million members. The Halifax, Woolwich and Northern Rock building societies and Norwich Union, the life insurer, will create 16 million shareholders. More than 1.2 million A&L members opted to receive their shares in certificate form. Nobody knows when, or if, they will want to sell, releasing their

unwanted paper into a system run by a computer. Crest has changed its computer system and pledged to open on Saturdays if necessary to allow extra time for shareholders transactions to be processed. But the system had problems just coping with the busy period at the end of the last financial year when investors "bed-and-breakfasted" their shares. Trading volumes rose 66,000 then, up from their normal level of 40,000. After the Halifax flotation in June they could easily hit 150,000.

Justin Urquhart Stewart, of Barclays Stockbrokers, urged members to hold on to the shares: "If the privatisations were selling off the family silver, the conversions of the building societies mean someone has been at granny's jewellery box. It is not often that someone hands you a blue chip stock for nothing."

Business ready for Labour in power

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS overwhelmingly believes that Labour will form the next government, and captains of industry are not worried about the prospect of Labour in power after May 1.

The findings come from separate surveys by the Institute of Management and Dun & Bradstreet, the business information company.

Business leaders judge that Labour will win next week's general election, according to evidence from the Institute of Management today. Its latest survey shows that 81 per cent of managers believe that Labour is most likely to win the election. Only 15 per cent expect the Conservatives to win.

Although the figures suggest that business believes that the election is a foregone conclusion, the findings are significant because they are in stark contrast to what business wants, measured by its own voting intentions.

The institute's findings are the first significant figures to support the general business view that while business does not much want Labour to win, it expects it to do so. Roger Young, IIM director-general, says today: "The findings show managers' bets seem to be riding on Tony Blair."

But company directors are expected to be called on this week to support the Conservatives. Business leaders are likely to hear calls for Tory support at the annual conference on Wednesday of the Institute of Directors. Lord Young, IoD president, is a former Conservative Cabinet minister.

But business is likely to send mixed signals about the economy this week too. In the final significant business figures before the election, large-scale industrial surveys by the Confederation of British Industry and the British Chambers of Commerce are expected to give further warnings that the strength of sterling is hitting the competitiveness of UK companies.

Confidence among company directors over the economic outlook is at its lowest level since September 1995, a poll from SBC Warburg claims. It says that six months ago 48 per cent of directors were confident of an improvement compared with just 14 per cent now.

Cordiant agencies to float after split

By ERIC REGULY

CORDIANT, the £800 million advertising group, today will announce a full demerger that will see Saatchi & Saatchi and Bates Worldwide, its two main agencies, floated separately on the stock market.

The break-up, devised by Bob Seeler, Cordiant's chief executive, and SBC Warburg, its adviser, has the backing of British and US institutional shareholders. They are gambling that autonomy will allow Saatchi and Bates to thrive. Cordiant's shares have underperformed the market in the past year.

Zenith, the media-buying arm of Cordiant, will be owned equally by the two agencies after the demerger. There are no plans to float Zenith.

Cordiant shares closed on Friday at 130p, valuing the group at £577 million. Cordiant and SBC Warburg think a demerger could add several hundred million pounds of value. Advertising agencies are typically valued at 1.2 times their revenue. Based on this calculation, Cordiant, with annual revenues of almost £800 million, is arguably worth £950 million or more.

The demerger has prompted speculation that Maurice and Charles Saatchi, founders of Saatchi & Saatchi, will try to regain control when the shares begin trading.

Co-op 'could face' £1bn bid this week

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

ANDREW REGAN, the entrepreneur trying to take over large chunks of the Co-operative movement, hopes to have his long-delayed £1.15 billion bid in place as soon as the end of the week, despite two months of rebuffs and a "dirty tricks" row that blew up between him and his quarry over the weekend.

He and his Galileo bidding vehicle still face a formidable legal hurdle. They have until 4pm tomorrow to provide information to the High Court of any confidential information on the Co-op obtained from two of its executives who were suspended last week.

The judge must then rule that a bid can go ahead. The Regan camp were confident last night that the legal deadline could be met and the necessary judgment be forthcoming, possibly on Friday. This would allow a formal bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society to be announced. The deadline was imposed by the court after CWS obtained an injunction against Galileo on Friday, a move that derailed plans to announce a bid that day. "It's full steam ahead," said a spokesman for Mr Regan. "We hope to move forward this week. All our ducks are in a row."

If Mr Regan and Lanica, his

main vehicle which set up Galileo to further his ambitions for the CWS, finally succeed in tabling a bid, it will come at a time when relations between him and the Co-op are at their lowest possible ebb. As well as the legal move, which the CWS insists was not merely designed to head off his formal offer, a row has blown up over secret meetings between him and the two suspended CWS executives, Allan Green and David Chambers, and their earlier relationship with another of his vehicles.

The High Court on Friday watched a video of one such meeting, in a pub car park, produced by the CWS as it asked for an injunction. The Co-op admits using private detectives to track the movements of the two, the head of the CWS's retail operation and his deputy, but says surveillance ended as soon as the injunction was granted.

Graham Melmoth, the CWS chief executive, has also written to Lord Hambro, head of Hambros, Lanica's merchant bank, referring to a payment made in 1995 into a Cayman Islands company, Trellis International. At that time Mr Regan's Hobson food business was in negotiations with CWS over a supply agreement.

In those talks, the two suspended executives were acting on behalf of the CWS. A

sum of £2 million was paid to Trellis by Hobson as an intermediary once the deal was struck, but Mr Melmoth says his company has no record of any such transaction or any third party involved.

This is disputed by the Regan camp, which says the payment was known of "at the highest levels" at the CWS, and accuses the latter of raising it improperly in an attempt to "publicly hang" Mr Green and Mr Chambers after their contact with Mr Regan was discovered. The Hambros letter, which concludes by asking the bank to forward "any evidence of fraud committed against CWS", has further soured the atmosphere between the two parties.

If Mr Regan is granted legal clearance to continue with his offer, he will first call a meeting of all 300 corporate members of the CWS. This is not seen as difficult, as he will need the support of just ten of them. But Co-op insiders say the necessary 75 per cent majority at such a meeting to deal with Galileo will be almost impossible to secure.

Mr Regan has found another ally, Allied Irish Banks, which is keen to take over the highly regarded Co-op Bank in any break-up of the CWS. But a report that J Sainsbury wanted to buy some of the larger food stores has been denied.



Full load: John Appleby managing director of wheeled shovel loaders, top, and Neil Bedford, centre, managing director of backhoe loaders, celebrate the awards with Sir Anthony Bamford

JCB scoops up its 13th award

THE JCB Group, the Staffordshire plant maker, has managed another double in this year's Queen's Export Awards, winning honours for both its wheeled loader and backhoe loader divisions. This brings the number of wins for JCB since 1969 to thirteen. Exports of wheeled

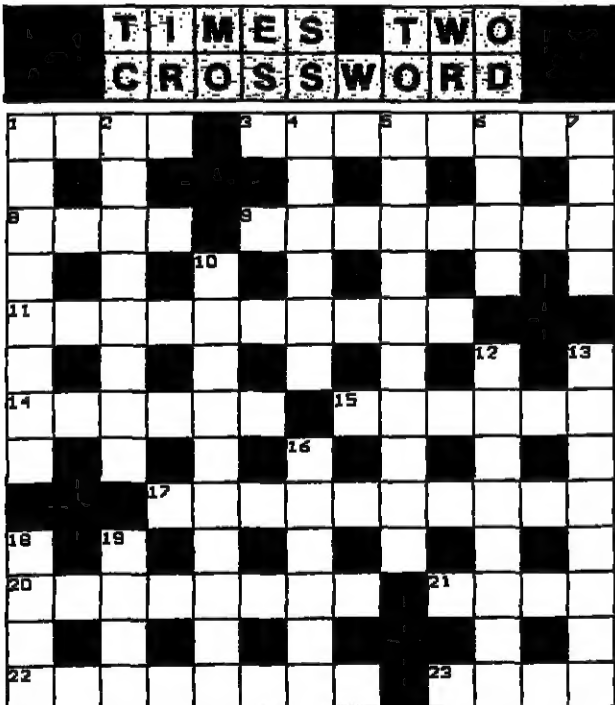
loaders have more than trebled over the past three years, while those for backhoe loaders rose 64 per cent.

Among the big names winning this year are British Steel, IBM United Kingdom, US owned but ranked fifth among top UK exporters, GEC and Toyota, one of the

most successful of the new Japanese inward investors.

At the other end of the corporate scale, fans of 1960s retro might approve the award to Mathmos, a London firm producing 400,000 lava lamps a year at up to £65 each.

Awards, pages 42-45



No 1073

ACROSS

- 1 Simple (4)
- 3 Adoption (of cause) (8)
- 8 Top of house (4)
- 9 One from Vienna (8)
- 11 With off-beat rhythm (10)
- 14 Every year (6)
- 15 Trickery (6)
- 17 Weighily declare (10)
- 20 Toeing party line (8)
- 21 Powder for bathroom (4)
- 22 Rashness (8)
- 23 Raise (tax, troops) (4)

DOWN

- 1 Pre-Roman Italian (8)
- 2 Fainting (8)
- 4 Georges —, pointillist (6)
- 5 Not sleeping honest (2,3,5)
- 6 Agitate, prison (slang) (4)
- 7 Prov. keen-eyed big cat (4)
- 10 50-year-old radio programme (6,4)
- 12 Isolate, divide (8)
- 13 Elastic (8)
- 16 Expel from country (6)
- 18 Gentle yielding (4)
- 19 Molecule component (4)

MGAM in the bidding for Axiom

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell yesterday confirmed Australian newspaper reports that Morgan Grenfell Asset Management is among the bidders for Axiom, the manager of some \$18 billion of funds for the New South Wales government. If it wins, MGAM would use Axiom to bid for the management of other government funds in Australia. MGAM faces stiff competition. Australian analysts give National Australia Bank, one of the four known bidders, the best chance of winning Axiom.

GDP forecast

Economic growth will accelerate throughout the rest of the year but inflation poses little immediate threat, a report concludes today. The Chartered Institute of Marketing predicts that GDP will rise 1.3 per cent in the second quarter and continue to grow in the second half. GDP figures for the first quarter are due out on Friday with quarterly rate forecast to show growth of 0.8 per cent, taking the annual rate from 2.6 per cent to 2.9 per cent.

BSkyB considers pay-per-view soccer

By JASON NISSE

BSKYB is considering pay-per-view football matches in the UK in June when England appears in a four-team tournament in France, playing against the host nation, Italy and Brazil.

The UK rights to live coverage of the tournament, a warm-up for next year's World Cup, have been sold to BSkyB by the French football association with edited highlights expected to be shown on ITV.

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, is looking at showing the England games on a pay-per-view basis, charging viewers between £5 and £10.

A spokesman said no final decision had been made on the coverage. A final decision is expected in early May. If BSkyB goes ahead it will be the first football games shown on a pay-per-view basis and will test demand for converting coverage of the Premiership to pay-per-view — expected to occur in two years.

BSkyB has enjoyed great

success with pay-per-view boxing, winning over 600,000 viewers from the Bruno-Tyson fight last year, which was shown in the UK at 4am on a Sunday. Last week it announced it would be showing Prince Naseem's fight at the Nynex arena in May on a pay-per-view basis.

The Football Association, which is in charge of England games at home, is not happy about pay-per-view coverage of the tournament in France, but said it could exert no more than moral pressure to have the games shown on a free view to Sky Sports subscribers.

"We are not terribly in favour of pay-per-view at this stage," said Phil Cartling, the FA's commercial director. "It does not provide the right level of delivery for our sports and this would be of concern to our sponsors."

Home games played by England and coverage of the World Cup are covered by a prohibition that does not allow them to be shown through pay-per-view.

Six million in the \$1m club

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE rich are indeed getting richer. The fortunes of the world's known super-wealthy have more than doubled to \$16.6 billion in the past ten years and dollar millionaires now number more than six million. And that is not counting the £250 billion-plus reckoned to be held by criminals.

Rich Europeans have pushed American millionaires into second place over the past decade. Gemini Consulting and Merrill

Lynch, which produced the research, forecast that assets held by the rich will swell to \$24.0 billion in the next three years from continuing deregulation and rapid growth in emerging markets.

The world's rich are increasingly to be found in Asia and Latin America. In these areas, wealth has grown at 15 per cent pa since 1986.

Asian millionaires now own an estimated \$3,500 billion in private fortunes, set to top \$6,000 billion by the year 2000. Such unprecedented

growth will push the region into second place behind Europe and ahead of North America for the first time. Europe's elite controlled \$5,000 billion in 1996 but will possess more than \$7,000 billion by the turn of the century, the report forecasts. In spite of its entrepreneurial reputation and the presence of billionaires such as Bill Gates, the chief Microsoft assets held by the rich in the US will rise a relatively modest \$1,400 billion to \$3,800 billion.

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Male & female both aged 35 next birthday and non-smokers	Male & female both aged 45 next birthday and non-smokers
Barclays Life	35.40
Commercial Union	36.00
Nationwide Life	37.81
Friends Provident	41.58
Black Horse Life	46.38
Scottish Amicable	48.00
Scottish Life	58.51
We can arrange this for	25.02
Commercial Union	75.00
Nationwide Life	83.50
Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	88.99
Black Horse Life	101.68
Scottish Amicable	108.00
Scottish Life	137.40
We can arrange this for	53.30

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